



A Local Newsletter serving Farmers throughout the Central West

SUMMER 2006

Central West Farming Systems Update Membership

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To all those who have renewed their membership and are supporting us, a big Thank You. The funds from membership fees go towards ensuring we can run our Regional sites and offer extra training and learning opportunities in areas that are topical and current.

On the 1st of July membership fees will be rising by \$15 to \$70 per annum. Fees have not changed for the last 8 years and we still have the lowest membership fees of any similar group. We are focused on the areas that will give the most value to our members. This includes profitability for your farming systems over and above the funding received from GRDC this includes incorporating field trips and workshops. There is still the opportunity to join for one or two years at the current membership fee of \$55 per annum. A membership form is available on request or on the back cover of this newsletter if you have overlooked rejoining.

We have our account details on the latest renewal form to make it easier – just write your membership/reference number in the box on the form that requests a reference so we know who you are and can issue your membership card.

Until June 30th this year all **current** members will be issued with a membership card that will have their name and number on it. This will allow members free admission to all field days and a heavily discounted rate for all our upcoming workshops.

From this newsletter forward only current members will receive our regular Newsletters and "Your Questions Answered" on the current topical issues that we all face. Our aim is to support and give value to those that support our group.

Workshops

To everyone who has helped out by returning surveys a very big Thank You!

This has helped us determine and focus on the areas of most interest. The results of this survey have been used to support an application to fund these workshops throughout the region. Some of the other workshops that we will be running this year:

- Precision Agriculture and Spatial mapping – Farming smart (6 – 9 March)
- Alternative Livestock – Alpacas as herd guards (Sat 25th March)

As per the results of the survey we will be endeavouring to run the following workshops. The following workshops will be a definite if we receive funding.

- Tax and the Farm Business (work this in around sowing and before June...)
- Livestock Marketing

- Computing – internet for farm based business
- OH&S workshop to guide those that have done the course on how to set up their own manual
- Innovative Cropping Equipment
- Different cropping and grazing techniques

We will be endeavouring to run several sessions of each workshop and spreading them across our area this will reduce everyone's travelling time and makes them more accessible

We have already got a series of workshops on Precision Agriculture planned for March these include GPS usage and savings/payback (including spatial mapping) and ongoing benefits. There are a limited number of places but if we get enough demand we can increase the capacity in most cases. Please give me a call on 02 6895 1001 to book a place or email :debbie.o'neill@dpi.nsw.gov.au Priority will be given to members.

When:	Where	Time
6 th March Parkes	Services and Citizens Club	7.30 start for Breakfast until ~11am
7 th March Tottenham	Golf Club	7.30 start for Breakfast until ~11am
8 th March Griffith	Griffith Leagues Club	7.30 start for Breakfast until ~11am
9 th March West Wyalong	Services and Citizens Club	7.30 start for Breakfast until ~11am

Cost for these has been set at \$10.00 for members (subsidised) and \$20 for non members

The two presenters will be available to go on farm during the afternoon if anyone has specific queries that they would like answered

GRDC Grower Update

Again this year, we are fortunate to host the GRDC grower update here in Condobolin on the 15th March registration from at 8:30am.

This is an opportunity to learn about leading edge technology that is able and can be applied immediately in many cases, to obtain better sustainability and profitability from your farming unit. We have been sponsored this year by;

- SunPrime seeds
- Ag'n'Vet
- Rabobank

So support these firms that are supporting us.

Q Fever

This year we have had a 3 local cases of Q fever reported all from people who had attended a cattle sale that included cows with calves at foot.

Cattle sheep and goats are the most common reservoirs of *Coxiella burnetii* the organism that causes Q Fever. The most common means of infection is from inhalation of airbourne organisms that originate from dried placental material, birth fluids and excreta of infected herd animals. Humans are susceptible to the disease and very few organisms may be required to cause infection.

The organisms are resistant to heat, drying and many common disinfectants.

Anyone in the agricultural industry that is dealing with breeding animals is susceptible.

Vaccination for this disease is available with an initial sensitivity test to ascertain whether you are already immune from prior exposure.

For more information on this disease click onto

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/qfever>

or

<http://immunise.health.gov.au/qfever/>

New Staff Member

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Wendy Gill as our new Regional Site coordinator to Central West Farming Systems. Wendy comes from a farming background in Albert so is

familiar with our working environment. We look forward to the value Wendy will bring to the job.

We look forward to meeting all our members through the year – if you have any ideas or issues please don't hesitate to give me a call on 6895 1001 or email debbie.o'neill@dpi.nsw.gov.au

Stripe Rust Results

FUNGICIDES FOR CONTROL OF WHEAT STRIPE RUST IN CENTRAL-WEST NSW

Author Ken Motley¹, Karen Roberts¹, Nathan Border¹, Tim McNee¹, Jan Edwards¹, Rob Griffith², Andrew Rice³.

¹NSW Dept of Primary Industries,
²BayerCropScience, ³Ivey ATP
(Agricultural Consultants and Charter Accountants),

Key Words wheat, stripe rust, fungicides, central west NSW

Take home messages

- Stripe Rust (SR) caused yield losses in all but the highly resistant variety Sunstate at most sites.
- Fungicides helped to protect yield potentials in susceptible varieties, except when SR pressure was either very low or very high.
- Timely early and late protection appeared more important than fungicide choice @Z39
- The genetic resistance in Sunstate was clearly the most outstanding form of SR control when disease pressure was very high, exceeding any fungicide strategy used on susceptible varieties.

- Until growers have available a range of highly SR resistant wheat varieties with desired agronomic traits, fungicide protection of SR on susceptible varieties is a practical and profitable option.

Trial details

The aims of these trials were to

- Assess the potential for yield and quality responses from controlling Stripe Rust (SR) in several wheat varieties with differing levels of SR resistance in central-west (CW) NSW.
- Assess the level of stripe rust control achieved by using different fungicide products including seed dressings, fertiliser dressings and foliar.

Trials were sown at 6 sites in central west NSW including, Cowra, Alectown, Wirrinya, Gunning Gap, Condobolin and Nyngan. 4 wheat varieties were sown including H45, Chara, Janz and Sunstate. Fungicide treatments listed in Table 1 were applied to H45 at various stages including @sowing, @Z32 and @Z39. Best bet fungicide treatments were applied on Chara, Janz and Sunstate to observe the benefit of SR control on varieties with increasing level of SR resistance.

Table 1: Fungicide products, rates and indicative costs.

Application method	Product used Abbreviation	Active ingredient Chemical	Available as other products	Rate		Adjuvant	Product cost	
				Abbreviation	Quantity		\$/L	\$/ha ^D
Seed Dressing	Raxil C ^A	Tebuconazole 25g/L+ Cypermethrin 4g/L		Standard	100 ml/100 kg ^B	n/a	\$33	\$1.63
	Baytan T	Triadimenol 150g/L + Triflumuron 4g/L		Standard	150 ml/100 kg ^B	n/a	\$51	\$3.83
	Jockey	Fluquinconazole 167g/L	Jockey Only	Low	300 ml/100 kg ^B	n/a	\$75	\$11.25
	Jockey	Fluquinconazole 167g/L	Jockey Only	Standard	450 ml/100 kg ^B	n/a	\$75	\$16.88
Fertiliser dressing	Impact (IF)	Flutriafol 250g/L	Jubilee	Standard	400 ml/ha	n/a	\$44	\$17.42
	Bayleton (IF)	Triadimefon 125g/L	See note below ^C	Standard	800 ml/ha	n/a	\$6	\$4.74
Foliar Fungicide	Bayleton	Triadimefon 125g/L	Turret, Triad	Low	500 ml/ha	Nil	\$6	\$2.96
	Bayleton	Triadimefon 125g/L	Turret, Triad	Standard	1000 ml/ha	Nil	\$6	\$5.92
	Folicur	Tebuconazole 430g/L	Stingray, Orius	Standard	145 ml/ha	+ 1% oil	\$66	\$11.11
	Tilt	Propiconazole 250g/L	Bumper, Aurora	Standard	250 ml/ha	Nil	\$31	\$7.78
	Tilt Xtra	Propiconazole 250g/L + Cyproconazole 80g/L	Tilt Xtra Only	Standard	250 ml/ha	Nil	\$67	\$16.79
	Opus	Epoxiconazole 125g/L	Opus only	Standard	250 ml/ha	Nil	\$60	\$15.01

^ARaxil C provides no control of stripe rust and is effectively a Nil treatment. All seed other than that treated with Baytan or Jockey was also treated with Raxil C

^BRate per 100 kg seed

^CBayleton 125 EC is not registered for use as a fertiliser dressing fungicide in NSW. Baytan 125 EC was used at a rate to provide 100g ai/ha, in line with the registration for triadimefon powder in WA. Powdered product was not used in this trial because of OH&S issues.

^DCost includes adjuvant for Folicur. Costs are indicative values only for the products and do not include application costs.

Results

A comprehensive set of results has been produced from these trials including SR control measurements, grain yield and quality effects and economic analysis. Complete statistical analysis of the results was not available at the time of writing this article and thus no data has been included. However, a summary of the results is provided below. Please contact the author for completed results.

Discussion / Conclusion

H45 proved very susceptible to SR at all sites in this trial series. Large grain yield and screenings responses to SR control in H45 were recorded at all sites except at Nyngan where SR pressure was low. Grain yield responses to SR control were recorded in Chara and Janz at all sites except Nyngan and Alectown, but to lesser degrees than in H45. No screenings responses to SR control in Chara or Janz were found at any site. The highly SR resistant variety Sunstate showed little sign of SR damage at any site. Under low SR pressure such as a Condobolin and Nyngan, Chara, Janz and Sunstate were not significantly different in terms of the amount of SR infection they harboured. However, under higher SR pressure the different varieties genetic resistance rankings to SR became apparent.

These trials demonstrated that a combination of pre Z39 and Z39 SR protection is needed on susceptible varieties to protect yield potentials when SR pressure is moderate to high. The choice of pre Z39 fungicide use will depend on the situation. Seed and fertiliser fungicide dressings appear to have a role in situations where management restrictions prevent timely pre Z39 foliar fungicide applications as and when required. Pre Z39 foliar fungicides require a higher degree of management than seed dressings to ensure that the application timing occurs at the critical stage of the SR's development. Z32 will not always be an appropriate time for pre Z39 foliar fungicide timing. It is suggested that pre Z39 foliar fungicides need to be applied in regard to SR development rather than crop growth stage.

In terms of evaluating seed dressing and fertilising dressing products, Jockey appeared to have the edge over Baytan for SR protection. However, Baytan provided a useful level of early SR protection at some sites when followed up with a late (Z39) foliar fungicide. The low rate (300ml/100kg) of Jockey was not much different from the standard rate for SR protection (450ml/100kg) and will help to make Jockey a more economically viable option for many

farmers. It must be remembered that the low rate of Jockey is unlikely to control Take All. Within the IF fertiliser dressings, Impact (IF) appeared to have the edge over Bayleton (IF). Fertiliser striping limited comparisons between the IF fertiliser treatments and seed treatments to the Condobolin and Nyngan sites, where no fertiliser flow problems were encountered. The IF treatments gave better control of SR than the seed treatments at Condobolin, but no such differences were found at Nyngan.

There was generally little difference between the fungicide products used @ Z39. They all appeared to work satisfactorily. Bayleton appeared weaker than Folicur @Z32 and weaker than most other products @Z39, but still gave a useful level of control even at the low rate (500ml/ha). The reported benefit of Opus providing a longer period of retained green leaf over other products was not seen in these trials. Timely early and late protection appeared more important than fungicide choice @Z39.

Despite extensive testing of fungicide products and strategies in these trials, genetic resistance was clearly the most outstanding form of SR control. The genetic resistance in Sunstate stood up to very high SR pressure at Cowra, where the fungicide strategies used in this trial series failed to protect yield potentials in susceptible varieties. While grain yield was largely a function of SR resistance at Cowra, other agronomic traits such as drought hardiness and high Water limited yield potential were just as important or more important at the other sites. These trials show that until growers have available a range of highly SR resistant wheat varieties with desired agronomic traits, fungicide protection of SR on susceptible varieties is a practical and profitable option.

Acknowledgements

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The data was analysed by Helen Nicol (NSW DPI). Special thanks to the cooperating farmers who hosted the trials.

Further Information

Ken Motley

Phone 02 6850 2926

ken.motley@dpi.nsw.gov.au

AWB Report

As you know, AWB (International) Limited's (AWBI) performance in managing the national wheat Single Desk is monitored by the Wheat Export Authority, with the WEA producing an annual report of its findings to growers. This year's Growers' Report (see attached) has just been released and is the fifth prepared by the WEA, covering the period from July 2004 to June 2005 with a focus on AWBI's performance in respect to the 2003-04 National Pool.

Overall, the 2005 WEA Growers' Report found that "For the 2003-04 Pool period, AWBI continued to produce overall positive results in its management of the National Pool". The main findings were as follows:

- AWBI has outperformed the Wheat Industry Benchmark by A\$16.36 per tonne

- Prices achieved by AWBI exceed prices achieved for comparable overseas wheat grades on the same day by US\$7.68 per tonne

- Foreign exchange and commodity pricing risk have produced positive results

- AWBI continues to use the advantages of the Single Desk to price discriminate across markets and across pools

- AWBI's 'Shaping the Future' strategy is a positive step for growers as it provides clarity, focus and longer term commitments to position the National Pool for the future

- AWBI has overseen a fall in real supply chain costs from 1999-00 to 2003-04 - average real supply chain costs increased slightly between 2002-03 and 2003-04, although the 2002-03 costs were low because of the lower than average crop;

For more highlights and the full report, please visit <http://www.wea.gov.au/> or click on the attachment. Any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

AWB are major sponsors and supporters of CWFS