



# Central West Farming Systems

FARMERS ADVANCING RESEARCH

PO Box 171 CONDOBOLIN NSW 2877 Ph. 6895 1001 Fax. 6895 2688  
Email – [catherine.evans@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:catherine.evans@agric.nsw.gov.au) [sharon.taylor@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sharon.taylor@agric.nsw.gov.au)

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED – Jan 2005

### CWFS

On the 20<sup>th</sup> January, CWFS' executive had a meeting with two GRDC representatives. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss what CWFS has achieved in the past and to address what the organisation would like to achieve in the future.

During this meeting it was brought to our attention that the amount of funds available to farming systems projects will be limited, because the drought has hit the pockets of GRDC. We are unsure how much money will be available for our project, however we have been encouraged to put together a proposal that outlines what our priorities are for central western NSW. This project has to be with GRDC by the 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Our current GRDC project finishes on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 and we hope that our new project will start on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005. At this time the organisation has no operating money for our 10 Regional Sites for 2005, as the Grain Growers Association will not fund research projects. At the next executive meeting the organisation will be discussing plans for the future, the core site, the regional sites and particularly the 2005 seminars.

### NVT Proposal

During the Christmas and New Year period CWFS put in an Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the National Variety Trials (NVT) to be conducted through GRDC. The aim of these NVT is to provide farmers with independent information on the performance of new winter crop varieties.

CWFS' proposal involved conducting variety trials at 5 locations: Nyngan, Condobolin, Euabalong, Rankins Springs and Merriwagga. After discussions with NSW DPI, we thought we would take care of western areas that weren't a high priority for NSW DPI. Our success with the application will be known in the next few weeks. If our application is successful we will be negotiating and signing a contract with GRDC by the end of March, thereby providing NVT for a

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period of 4 years. As soon as we are notified we will be letting you know!! Keep your fingers crossed.

### Regional Atlas

In our current project with GRDC we have to put together a regional atlas for each of our regional sites. These regional atlas' contain historical information regarding CWFS trials, soil types and climatic information, including rainfall, drought, frost and temperatures.

Once completed these regional atlas' will be published and posted to each of our members for their own information. Each member will receive the information for their own regional site along with a summary for central western NSW.

Contained in each of these regional atlas' is a snap shot of each regional site's main research outcomes. Over the next couple of months each snap shot will be published in this handout.

### Alectown Snap Shot

- Apply fertiliser to wheat and canola at 20-25 kg P/ha.
- Early (late April) and mid-season (late May) sowing yield well. The season determines which sowing time yields higher.
- Gairdner barley sown at 60 kg/ha yields well in this environment.
- Chlorsulfuron herbicides can damage wheat and decrease yields. Adding P and/or Zn will not diminish this damage.
- There is no yield increase to any Zn fertiliser addition on the red cropping soils of central-western NSW where the surface 0-10 cm soil is acidic.

Sorry we are a little late with this handout, but we have been busy writing reports and proposals. We will try to be on time for February.

Sharon and Cath

## Young Farmers Forum, Dubbo, 2005

Please find attached the details regarding this forum in Dubbo on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2005. Please note there is no age limit for this forum, it is for both the young and the young at heart!! We hope to see some of you there.



PO Box 171  
Condobolin NSW 2877

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA