



Central West Farming Systems

FARMERS ADVANCING RESEARCH

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED May 2005

2004-05 Compendium

The 2004-05 Annual Research Compendium is at the printers, so it should be in the mail in June. This year is the final Research Compendium in this format. It contains summaries of the research conducted by CWFS over the last 7 years. There is also summary information for central western NSW – wheat yields, farm information, livestock trends, climate “changes”. Each Regional Site is separated into its own chapter and it also contains atlas-type information (e.g. soil type, rainfall, frost, temperature) for that area and Regional Site trial summaries for the last 7 years. A chapter is included with results from other low rainfall areas and there is a chapter giving results from the subsoils project and another related project. An Index is included at the back so that you can find information from this Compendium and the past 6 Compendiums. We hope you enjoy our last Compendium.

Trials for 2005

Sharon has been busy sourcing seed and getting organised for the 2005 season – she’s an optimist! So whenever the rain gets here, Sharon will be off somewhere to sow trials.

Funding for 2005 onwards

We have submitted a project to GRDC for the next 3 years of funding. The project had to have the Regional Sites as number 1 priority. So the Regional Sites will definitely be continuing from June 2005-June 2008. The core site has funds to sow and harvest it but minimal funds for data collection or analysis. So unless funding is found from elsewhere, the core site (farming systems comparison) will end. Sharon, Allan and Rob are funded on the new project; with some extra funds for contract work or half a salary (if another half can be found). The subsoils project

is a stand alone project, so Daryl will continue work on this until its funding ends in June 2006.

Research \$ in CW NSW

There is a lack of research money coming into central western NSW. The Condobolin Research Station has lost 7 projects in the last 2 years – that’s at least 7 people’s jobs.

How do the grain levies work?

Each tonne of grain sold, has a 1% levy on it that goes to the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) for research and development of the grains industry. So, if you deliver 100t of grain at \$140/t, that is worth \$14 000 and you pay a levy of \$140 (1%).

In CW NSW, on average from 1996-2003, wheat harvested was about 1.4 million tonnes per year. At \$140/t and a grain levy of 1%, this means about \$1.9 million per year is collected in grain levies on wheat alone. CWFS receives \$440 000 per year. NSW DPI at Condobolin receives less than this at present. That’s less than 50% of the wheat grain levies coming back to CW NSW. Where are your grain levies going?

Farewell from Cath

This is my last “*Your Questions Answered*” so I wanted to say Goodbye and Thank You. The change in focus of the group away from research and the shortage of funding has made the Research Manager position redundant. I want to thank everyone for the last 3 years at CWFS. I have enjoyed the challenge that this position gave me. I hope that in the future I will pick up odd jobs that will give me some involvement with CWFS. I wish everyone all the best for the future – and much rain.

Cath & Sharon

Regional Site Research Agenda for 2005

The main issues being investigated by our Regional Sites this year include:

Alectown, Gunning Gap and Wirrinya

- Management of stripe rust with seed dressings and foliar fungicides
- Interaction of field pea varieties and plant populations
- Soil amelioration

Euabalong

- The follow-on effects of pulse crops on wheat

- Interaction of field pea varieties and plant populations
- Wheat variety trial
- Barley variety and agronomy trial

Merriwagga

- Long-term crop rotation and tillage trial

Nyngan

- Wheat variety trial
- Barley variety and agronomy trial
- Management of stripe rust with seed dressings and foliar fungicides



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Research Agenda Continued....

Rankins Springs

- Long-term alternative production systems trial
- Vetch variety trial
- Wheat variety trial

Tottenham

- The follow-on effects of alternative crops on wheat
- Wheat variety trial
- Interaction of field pea varieties and plant populations

- Barley varieties and agronomy

Ungarie

- Bus trip to Southern Australia

Weethalle

- Farming systems demonstration

For further information about our regional site plans for 2005 please contact:

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