

# the link



FarmLink Newsletter Winter 2015



Four-year-old Liahna Wiencke was rugged up for winter as she venture outside on her family's property 'Sunnywell' to play with a woolly friend.



Annual Winter Bus Tour



Stubble Management



Out & About

# Catch up with CEO Cindy Cassidy

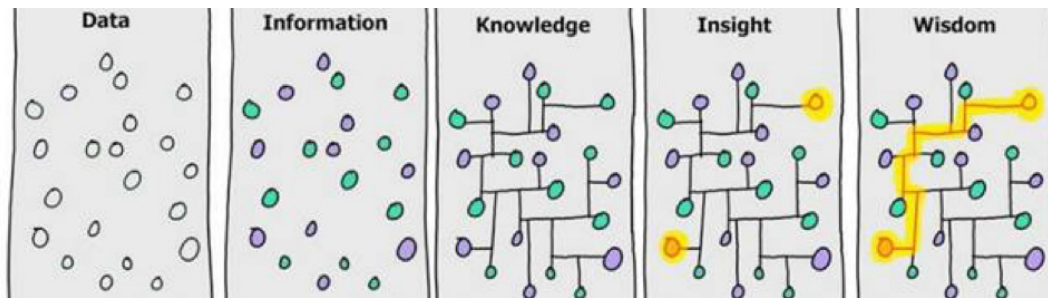
## It is great to look out the window while I write this and see puddles!

As always there heaps of activity for the team here with lots of events - Winter Bus Trip, Mirrool Creek Grower day, Facilitation and Adult Learning Workshop, Annual Dinner, Ladies Day, Livestock Efficiency Workshop, GRDC Business Updates, FarmLink Open Day, University Crops Competition and so much more all happening. You will also have started to receive this year's Weather or Not and the Grain Growers Production Wise information. We are really pleased to provide these resources to you as exclusive benefits for FarmLink members. We are investing considerable time and money in developing and delivering these decision making aids to assist you in your crop moisture and input management and hope that you find them useful. Earlier this month we launched our new look membership package with 4 options – Farmer, Future Farmer, Corporate and Researcher & Advisor memberships – these options have been created to better reflect the diversity of

FarmLink members and to deliver real value. When we looked at the investment being made in member services we found that for \$250 you have access to nearly \$700 of tangible value in the form of FarmLink publications, events and information. ON TOP of this there is the value of \$1.9mill of your R&D levies being invested in local RD&E in SNSW through FarmLink along with the network of farmers, advisors, researchers and other agribusiness professionals that FarmLink gives you access to. Did you know that the more members FarmLink has, the better our chances of securing levy funds for activities in this region? If you know someone who would benefit from the activities and services of FarmLink please invite them to an event or send them the FarmLink membership details so we can continue to develop the future of farming in SNSW.

Very shortly I will be launching into my RIRDC Rural Women's Award Bursary project which I am calling Efficient, Effective Extension for farming SYstems (EEEaSY). My EEEaSY project will be focusing on modern approaches to agricultural extension – how do we handle adult to adult learning and adoption of innovation in farming systems in the modern age of mass information. The project will entail a review of literature regarding the evolving theories and models for agricultural extension along with a study tour next year to look at international approaches (policy and practice). Through the project I hope to identify new ways to deliver extension activities within FarmLink which also be adopted by other farming systems groups around the country. Certainly I will keep you informed of what I find out as I go along. Recently I came across a cartoon which I think captures the essence of what we are all trying to achieve – creating wisdom out of facts.

Member Benefits	Value
FarmLink Research Report (Annual)	\$100
Weather or Not (monthly growing season)	\$165
The Link newsletter (monthly)	\$145
eLink (member email fortnightly)	\$50
FarmLink member workshops, events and activities	\$184
Discounted access to FarmLink member events	\$50
Value of Tangible Benefits	\$694
Access to RD&E portfolio of industry funds	>\$1.9 mill
Research conducted locally & direct involvement in the programs	Priceless
Network of innovative local farmers, expert researchers and industry partners	Priceless



## Board of Directors

Each member of the FarmLink Board of Directors brings their own unique skill set to the organisation, combining business management and agricultural skills to ensure a positive direction into the future.



CEO  
Cindy Cassidy



Chair  
Darryl Harper



Deputy Chair  
Rob McColl



Director  
Rob Patterson



Director  
Lisa Anderson



Director  
Ron Heinrich



Director  
Lyndon McNab



Director  
Bernard Hart

## Events

*Members learn, share and celebrate*



The 2015 Winter Bus Tour was a great success as participants learnt about Farming System Technological Innovations

Things will start warming up very soon for FarmLink members, with a raft of opportunities coming up for knowledge sharing, celebration and experiences.

July wrapped up with the Annual Winter Bus Tour focussing on Farming System Technological Innovations, particularly Disc vs Tyne Seeders and Automatic Sheep Handling. The inaugural FarmLink Ladies Day was hosted at Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre (TAIC) on July 23, with a combination of informative, inspiring and hands-on sessions, while a year of growth and consolidation was celebrated at the FarmLink Annual Dinner on July 24 at Magpies Nest Restaurant in Wagga.

Murray Long, who is running the livestock operations at TAIC has two workshops planned to assist members with their on-farm

livestock decision making. Topics will include Sheep Efficiencies and Genetic Selection and will both be conducted at TAIC.

Major planning is also underway for the Annual FarmLink Open Day, to be held on September 11 at TAIC. The day will hold a true mixed farming focus, with the expansion of livestock workshops being conducted in conjunction with the cropping research and trial workshops which prove popular each year. Additional trade stands are also being invited, to maximise the experience for members on the day.

Further details on all FarmLink events can be found via the website [www.farmlink.com.au](http://www.farmlink.com.au) or Facebook page [www.facebook.com/FarmLinkResearch](http://www.facebook.com/FarmLinkResearch). Bookings can be made by emailing [debbie@farmlink.com.au](mailto:debbie@farmlink.com.au) or phoning 02 6980 1333.

## Meet the Director: Darryl Harper

**This edition we take the chance to meet new Chair of the FarmLink Board, Darryl Harper.**

Darryl farms with his wife Christina, his brother and sister-in-law and parents. The partnership operates a grain focussed mixed farming business in the Ariah Park and Barmedman districts.

Darryl worked on the family farm before and after graduating with an Associate Diploma in Farm Management from Orange Agricultural College and is an active member of the NSW Farmers Association. Darryl has always been passionate about farming and views agriculture as the first stage in the food business.

Darryl realised the benefits of research from a young age as the property hosted NSW Agriculture and CSIRO field trials. He considers himself fortunate to be able to work in an industry he likes, and enjoys nothing more than seeing changes in farming methods boost productivity in his own business and the farming community in general.

Darryl and Christina have three young children. Darryl enjoys the occasional game of tennis and being involved with community and development associations.



FarmLink Chair Darryl Harper with wife Christina on their farm

## Ram Selection – getting the right genetics!



Author - Murray Long, ClearView Consulting

Murray is currently conducting the livestock operations at the Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre

**The time is fast approaching when sheep producers make the annual 'trek' to their ram supplier and select replacement sires for their sheep operation.**

The decision as to which ram breeder they source rams from will be based on a variety of reasons;

- A family tradition built up over many generations of sourcing genetics from a specific breeder
- A desire to focus on specific traits that a particular stud has built into their breeding program
- The breeder is just a few kilometres up the road
- The breeder does well at the major shows, therefore his sheep must be good
- The desire to source the best genetics available based on performance
- The rams are the cheapest I can find
- A desire to remain on a 'bloodline' that has been proven to provide good returns

There is no doubt many more reasons why sheep producers make decisions as to where to source their rams, some have a great deal of merit, some have absolutely no justification. Rams make up only two per cent of your total flock, but their impact on the profitability of your enterprise is highly significant, and in a self-replacing flock, can have long term implications.

The decision as to where and how to source replacement rams is entirely the choice of individual producers, but there are currently technologies to ensure the choices made are going to actually improve your profitability, not constrain your progress. The days of selecting rams visually, with no information of how those rams are actually going to perform on your property, are long gone. The entire livestock industry now has fully accepted the use of Estimated Breeding Values (EBVs) as a means of determining the genetic potential of individual sires and just how they will impact on profitability.

The sheep industry in Australia has developed Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) that provide independent analysis across a wide range of traits in Merinos, Terminals and Maternals on the genetic potential of individual animals. Sheep producers can use

these values to tailor selections to suit their operation, but first they must develop their own breeding objectives.

Prior to making a decision as to where to source rams, firstly determine whether the ram breeder provides the opportunity to make selections based on performance (ASBVs) or just visual appraisal. If you are satisfied with visual appraisal, no more homework is required, but if you have access to ASBVs, you can develop your own breeding objective.

Your breeding objective should focus on the main areas of production that ensure your profitability. If breeding self-replacing Merinos, fleece weight, staple strength and fertility may be the top considerations. If your operation focuses on prime lambs, early growth, birth weight and muscle may be of most importance. Whatever you decide, try not to select any more than three or four main traits, otherwise the task becomes very confusing and little progress will be made.



Once you have a breeding objective that is specific to your operation, you can select rams with the exact ASBVs to match those breeding objectives, something that is virtually impossible by visual selection or without the use of ASBVs.

By selecting replacement sires using ASBVs you achieve several outcomes;

- The progeny will be more even and achieve all the objectives of your breeding program
- The rams you purchase from one year to the next are of equal or better quality
- You can be confident you are getting the right genetics for your operation

It is important to remember that when buying a team of replacement sires, it is the average genetic merit of the whole team that is important, not just the inclusion of a few rams that are ideal. By focussing heavily on those traits that are at the top of your

breeding objectives and being mindful of other traits that could provide problems (eg fibre diameter or worm resistance), you can be confident that every ram you buy will work toward improving your profitability.

The range of traits evaluated in either MerinoSelect or Lambplan is extensive and all are calculated independently and in most cases, across flocks, so you are able to compare the values from one stud to the next. For example, this allows for a direct comparison between a White Suffolk ram in NSW and a Poll Dorset ram in Vic or WA, or in the case of a Merino ram, a comparison between any rams across the breed. The MerinoSelect and Lambplan data is analysed separately, so comparison between them is not valid for any trait.

**To find out more about how you can use ASBVs to assist in your selection decisions, visit the Sheep Genetics website <http://www.sheepgenetics.org.au> or keep watch for a RamSelect workshop being run at the Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre in August.**

## Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness Team Members

FarmLink has enjoyed a partnership with principal sponsor Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness over many years, and is continuing to strengthen the relationship between the two entities, aimed at developing strategies which will benefit FarmLink members across the region. We'll be introducing members of the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness team via The Link over the next few editions, and in this Winter edition would like you to meet Chantelle Montgomery.

### Family Farming Upbringing



**Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness Executive and FarmLink member, Chantelle Montgomery, grew up on a farm between Urana and Jerilderie, number 10 of 15 children - 11 girls and 4 boys.**

"I believe at last count there were 58 grandchildren and great grandchildren. I attended Urana Central School to year 10 and for a period also school of the air. I met my husband Brian two-and-a-half years ago and we married in March this year."

Chantelle embraced her farm upbringing and at 13 started working weekends in the gardens on Cocketgedong Station and driving cattle and sheep in school holidays. "I enjoyed working with sheep and took work as a roustabout whenever I had the opportunity. As a child I was always under someone's feet in the shearing shed. I have worked woodcutting, been employed in the abattoirs, and will never forget the many hours as a teenager walking through paddocks with a hoe, cutting Bathurst Burr and Devils Claw. After two years managing a medical supply business, I started with Commonwealth Banks Agriline department in 2010 and have been managing Agribusiness customers since that time. I have worked in both WA and NSW and in 2012 had the opportunity to travel to United States and complete placements in multiple businesses and Agri banks."

### Where do you call home?

"Wagga Wagga has been home since 1993 when my parents left the farm. I spent my first 12 years in Wagga working in the field of Palliative Care and disability support and behaviour management providing in home respite services across the region."

As an Agribusiness Executive, Chantelle wants to add value to her

customers' business, to work collaboratively with them to achieve their goals and apply skills to assist clients to understand their barriers, risks and opportunities. "I enjoy getting involved in the community, I feel keeping our farming business strong will assist in keeping our small towns vibrant."

Chantelle is excited about the innovation, information and advances in efficiency which exist in agriculture today. "We are seeing this across a wide range of areas whether it is in machinery development or better genetics in livestock and grain production. Farmers can now utilise the study and experiments of others to determine what might be best practice for their business."

Out of the office, Chantelle enjoys playing music and spending time with her husband and family and takes the opportunity to get in the sheep yards or shearing shed when she is able to. She also mentors young girls in personal and environmental awareness and self-defence techniques.

### If there was one thing you could control in the future, what would it be?

"I would like to see investment in addressing the issue of Rural Migration through the provision of services and opportunity in rural centres. I would like to provide opportunities so our younger generations can make the choice to stay and know that they have a future."



# Influence of post sowing rainfall on Annual Ryegrass Control

**Sakura® 850WG compared to commercial standards at three locations across Western Australia in 2014.**

Bayer CropScience, Technical Advisor, Rick Horbury conducted trials over three sites in WA in 2014 comparing the efficacy of Sakura® 850WG with Boxer Gold, Trifluralin, Avadex and combinations of the herbicides to control annual ryegrass (ARG). A key focus of the experiment was to determine the impact of rainfall post sowing and highlight the importance of sowing time to maximize weed control and yield.

Using three sowing times, the trials were conducted across the WA wheat belt (Mingenew, Warradarge and Meckering)

## Weed control panicle counts – What is going back into my seed bank?

Panicle counts are the best measure of the effectiveness of an herbicide program on seed set and the seed bank of the paddock for future rotations. Results in Figure 2 show that in the early sowing time all pre-emergent herbicides tended to have reduced control of ARG panicles due to very high weed numbers and poor initial knockdown. Sakura recorded a higher % ARG panicle control than the trifluralin, trifluralin + Avadex Xtra or Boxer Gold treatments although it was still below

in the late time of sowing the application of third knockdown resulted in an increase in control from all herbicides with the untreated alone recording an average 57% reduction in ARG numbers and the highest result of 76% at Meckering.

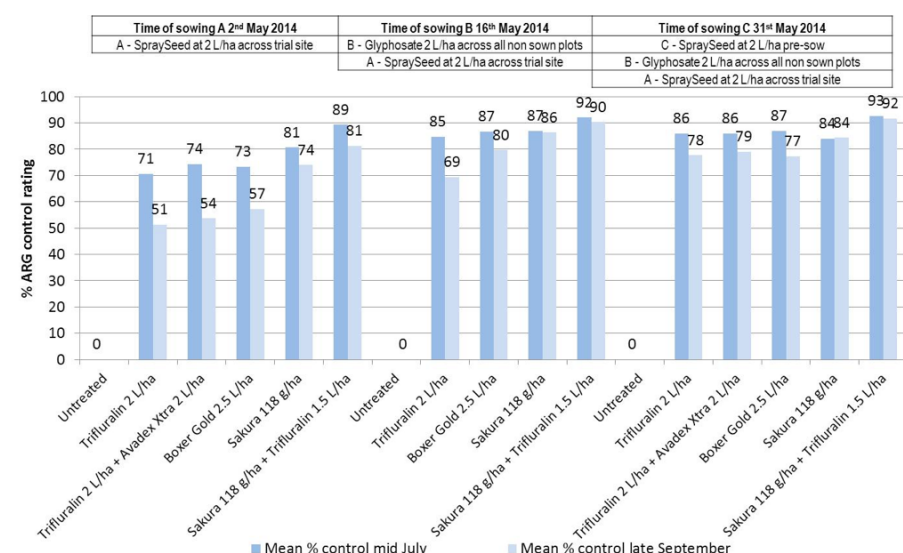
On average both trifluralin treatments and Boxer Gold recorded good suppression (80-84%) of ARG while both Sakura treatments recorded excellent control ( $\geq 90\%$ ). It should be note though that at Warradarge where the high stubble load was present all herbicides recorded reduced control compared to Mingeneu and Meckering where better soil contact was achieved. This highlights the importance of stubble management to get the best efficacy from pre-emergent soil active herbicides.

Angus McClennan, Bayer CropScience Technical Advisor, is replicating the experiment at Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre (TAIC) in 2015. The trial and preliminary results are expected to be on display at the FarmLink Open Day to be held at TAIC on the 11th September.

'The results in Western Australia were really encouraging, providing some good insights to improve the use of Sakura and achieve better rye grass control. However, it is always good to see results for the local area – it just gives you more confidence', Angus said on a recent visit to the trial site at TAIC.

In looking at the WA trials and interpreting the data Rick was keen to point out to growers -

- Sakura 850WG like other root uptake herbicides i.e. propyzamide works best when activated within a moist soil profile prior to or as weeds germinate.
- All pre-emergent herbicides are impacted by surface stubble especially under high grass weed numbers
- The value of an effective knockdown or even a double knock in taking the pressure off pre-emergent herbicides cannot be underestimated when trying to drive a seed bank down.
- The addition of trifluralin (+5%) a shoot, uptake volatile herbicide to Sakura a long lasting residual root uptake product can be an excellent option in challenging non-wetting soil types like at Meckering. On heavier soils or where heavy stubble is an issue only comparable or a slight improvement (2-3%) are observed.



**Figure 1:** Average pre-emergent ARG control by herbicide across three TOS and three locations across WA in 2014.

on crops of Mace wheat being grown on different soil types (red loam, sand plain-gravel 20% and non wetting sand) to reflect the different growing conditions available.

## Weed control ratings – early and late season

The trials identified a reduction in average percent control of ARG rating for all pre-emergent herbicides at the three trial sites in 2014 between July and September assessments. The Sakura treatments with their longer residual activity were more consistent across the three sowing times at the early and late ARG control ratings than trifluralin and Boxer Gold treatments. These results have been summarized in Figure 1 below. It is important to note that early weed control in July does not equate to final ARG control at the end of the growing season which is what really counts for seed bank management.

commercially acceptable levels ( $\geq 80\%$ ). The addition of trifluralin to Sakura was of particular benefit on the non-wetting soil at Meckering (12% increase) due to it being active while the top soil was dry with germinated weeds unable to take Sakura up through the roots at initial establishment. However in the heavy stubble at Warradarge and on the red loam at Mingeneu trifluralin provided minimal increase in efficacy to Sakura.

In the middle sowing time the effectiveness of the second knockdown was evident with a 37% reduction in ARG in the untreated and an increase in control from all pre-emergent herbicides across the three trials.

The longer residual activity observed in the Sakura treatments (86 and 89%) resulted in a higher level of ARG control compared to trifluralin (74%) although Boxer Gold recorded useful suppression (80%). While

- Reduced weed competition improves the water and nutrient use by the crop resulting in increased yield potential.

'It should always be top of mind that pre-emergent herbicides only form part of a fully Integrated Weed Management program. Harvest weed seed management practices are strongly recommended to reduce plant and seed numbers and delay the onset of resistance', Rick reminds us.

Getting weed control right is the key to ensuring the longevity of any herbicide but it also allows the crop its best possible chance of achieving its yield potential. Using a program of effective knockdowns and a long residual activity product like Sakura can deliver higher yields and returns across a variety of sowing timings and locations as seen across the three trial locations in 2014. Always remember the importance of harvest weed seed management in the year before as method of reducing the seed bank by non-chemical means.

To see Rick's full technical report and the relevant data go to [www.farmlink.com.au](http://www.farmlink.com.au)

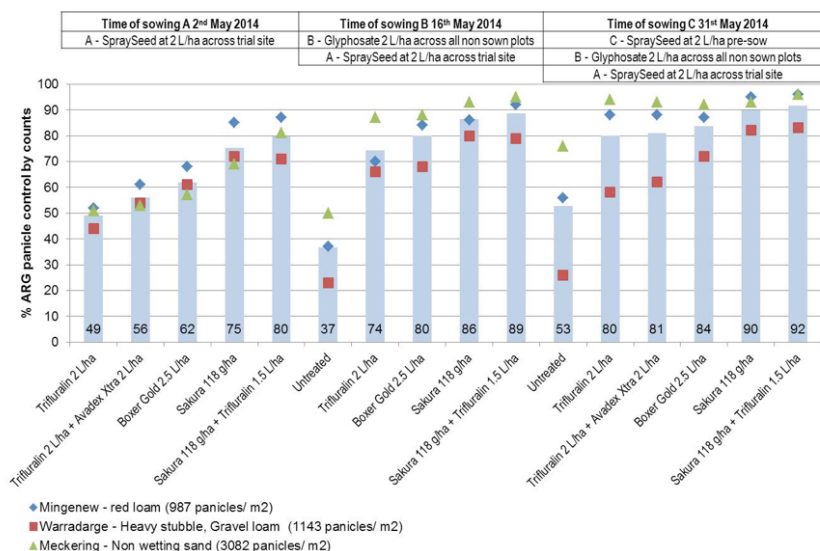


Figure 2: Average % ARG panicle control by herbicide across three TOS and three locations across WA in 2014.

## AGT to host inaugural open day

Australian Grain Technologies (AGT) is Australia's largest wheat breeding company, consisting of four breeding nodes situated throughout Australia in Roseworthy (SA), Northam (WA), Narrabri and most recently, Wagga (NSW).

AGT made the decision to relocate their Horsham breeding node to Wagga 18 months ago, seeing the central location of Wagga, being situated in the heartland of southern NSW, and exposed to central NSW and northern Victoria as a primary reason to relocate. Wagga also had the added advantage of tertiary education and government bases such as Charles Sturt University and the Department of Primary Industries, with whom AGT looks forward to strengthening bonds with.

Marketing and Production Manager James Whiteley explained AGT was excited to answer farmers' calls for more resources to be put into long season breeding, especially dual purpose winter wheats

"By AGT relocating to Wagga we have positioned ourselves in one of the most prominent farming regions in Australia," Mr Whiteley explained, "there has long been calls for more breeding resources to be allocated to long season dual purpose varieties and we are excited to now be in this space."

With Britt Kalmeier taking on the long season breeders role and purchase of Berry Jerry Station's irrigation block 'Kabinga' as a research station, AGT is moving forward. "The acquisition of Kabinga will enable us to grow our south east breeding program and really extend our search for the next big winter wheat," Ms Kalmeier said.

AGT is still breeding main season lines from the Wagga node lead by experienced senior breeder Russell Eastwood, with varieties such as Suntop, Mace, Livingston, Corack, Condo and Elmore CL Plus, and sees the main season programs as still being the major part of their business.

With the relocation, AGT began a partnership with FarmLink that involves demonstration of new varieties and a key presence at

FarmLink's own Open Day each September.

"We are lucky being based here at Wagga that we get significant exposure to both mixed farming and continuous cropping programs. It is a unique region and we see working closely with growers and industry as a big positive" Mr Eastwood said.

With 2015 being the first year of a full trial program at Kabinga, AGT is planning the inaugural open day at the farm on August 27. The open day cover topics including what it takes to breed a variety from parent selection and initial cross, the evaluation of maturity, disease resistance, yield and quality through to purification and making a decision on release. AGT will also be taking attendees through their agronomy trials, including a time of sowing trial, grazing trial, fungicide trial, and a traditional variety trial.

The open day will begin at 9am for tea and coffee to start at 9.30am sharp through to 1pm where AGT will provide a BBQ lunch and refreshments.



AGT Marketing and Production Manager James Whiteley invites farmers to the Kabinga Research Centre for its inaugural open day on August 27.

# Stubble

# Management

## What's important for success?

- ▶ Take a long term approach to planning and consider all the options suitable for your farm
- ▶ Learn from others, but remember every farm is different so be flexible to deal with variable conditions
- ▶ Don't let stubble compromise 'the big six' drivers of crop profitability
  1. Summer weed control
  2. Timely sowing
  3. Adequate and even crop establishment
  4. In-crop weed control
  5. Foliar and root diseases
  6. Nitrogen nutrition



Ariah Park farmer Paul Buerckner with 4-year-old son Jake and two-year-old daughter Lucy, standing in a canola crop sown into retained wheat stubble





# Stubble retention: BENEFITS and CHALLENGES

## Benefits

The benefits of stubble retention have been shown over several decades. Initially adoption was driven by reducing tillage using chemical weed control to give labour and fuel savings, and the desire to improve soil structure and reduce erosion. During the recent drought years (2002-2009) moisture conservation became the main incentive for farmers converting to this system. Farmers engaged in this practice need to be flexible with their management to successfully implement what can be a complex system. Retained stubble protects soils from wind erosion and surface runoff, gives greater infiltration and lower evaporation rates. Stubble adds to particulate soil carbon reserves that increase microbial action and maintain soil structure. However, stubble retention can present a range of problems that can threaten crop profitability. This tends to happen when stubble compromises one of the 'big six' key drivers of crop profitability – summer weed control, timely sowing, adequate and even crop establishment, in-crop weed control, foliar and root diseases and nitrogen nutrition. Solutions to many of these issues involve reducing or removing the stubble prior to establishing the next crop. Farmers experienced with stubble retention use all options to manage stubble if crop profitability is at risk.

## Challenges

### Physical

**Machinery blockage** at sowing can mean interruptions to the operation and leave paddocks with uneven coverage or clumps of residue that can prevent even seedling emergence. Some varieties of crops can have different residue characteristics such as volume and straw strength that needs to be taken into account when considering the next crop. Problems can also occur where residues build up over a number of years particularly where GPS guidance or tram tracks are used and residues are thrown onto the same harvest trails.

**Poor establishment** of crops has been a concern for farmers, especially when sowing small seeded crops like canola into heavy cereal stubbles. This can be due to several factors including the physical barrier, reduced soil temperatures under mulch, or from low light in standing stubbles. Poor seedling vigor in cereal crops using direct drilling techniques has also been a problem and research has shown that crop roots can be restricted by soil structural conditions that then leave them exposed to inhibiting soil bacteria (Pseudomonads).



*Photo 1 - Canola inter-row sown into tall standing stubble avoids the problem of stubble residue affecting establishment*  
Photo: Tony Pratt

*For management of residues to avoid blockages and poor crop establishment, consider -*

- ▶ Crop rotation – legumes leave little residue, cereals higher loads.
- ▶ Low cut stubble (10-15cm) at harvest spread evenly across paddock (tynd seeders)
- ▶ High cut stubble at harvest, use wider row spacing and inter-row sowing into standing stubble (better suited to disc seeders)
- ▶ Livestock grazing to consume and trample residues
- ▶ Incorporating stubble by tillage after harvest
- ▶ Mulching after harvest
- ▶ Baling and removing from paddock.
- ▶ Burning prior to sowing
- ▶ Improving seedling vigor by using more vigorous varieties, planting earlier into warmer soils, or with seeder points that give greater soil disturbance.

**This is the first section of a four page fact sheet created by FarmLink as a part of the GRDC National Stubble Initiative. The remainder of the fact sheet can be downloaded from the FarmLink website, or contact the office on [farmlink.com.au](http://farmlink.com.au) or 02 6980 1333 if you would like us to send a copy to you**

## Principal Partner

**Commonwealth**Bank  
Agribusiness



## Silver Partner



Bayer CropScience



## Bronze Partner



agribusiness



## Corporate Member



Legal advice generously provided by



## Out & About



Britt Kalmeier and Emma Dunbar working on the AGT trials which welcomed the mid-July rains at TAIC.



FarmLink CEO Cindy Cassidy and Deputy Chair Rob McColl (right) thanks guest speakers at the FarmLink Annual Dinner (l-r) Kristian Bonetti (Commonwealth Bank) and Dan Cooper (Chair of the NSW Farmers' Grains Committee)



Sam Dart, Cathie Fox and Jo Pincott were among the participants in FarmLink's inaugural Ladies Day.



Bev Norman tells participants of the Winter Bus Tour about their automated sheep handling equipment.



Enjoying the school holidays on the family farm, 'Sunnywell', with a special woolly friend were the Wiencke children, Taleah (11), Brayden (9), Callum (6) and Liahna (4).



St Anne's Central School Ag Elective Program students learning about livestock handling in their latest visit to Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre.

# Out on the Farm

An update from Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre (TAIC)



FarmLink's Tony Pratt helps Bernard Hart and grandson Archie Carl place a rock and plaque at the front of FarmLink's offices at TAIC to mark the tree planted by Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Marie Bashir AC CVO Governor of NSW, when she officially opened the offices last year.

## What a difference rain can make!

The crops around the district, including those at Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre (TAIC), began June looking for decent rainfall, and they got just what they needed, with 56.5mms recorded in the TAIC rain gauge towards the end of the month. Add to that an impressive 79.3mm in mid to late July and the crops at TAIC have been given a real boost. A period of no frosts and some warmer winter days have seen some good post tillering growth in the cereals and the canola fill in ground cover.

Water started to flow into Trigalong Creek from the Lake Centenary spillway showing how saturated the landscape is, although many farmers will still be looking for follow-up run-off rain to put water back into dams before heading into Spring and Summer.

This rain has put moisture into the soil profile and is considered some of the better Winter rainfall received for quite some time. This sees TAIC progressing into Spring with a reasonable amount of moisture in the profile, although we will need good rainfall in September and October to get through to the end of the season.

In TAIC commercial crops, urea has been spread on the canola, which has really responded to the application. We are now waiting for paddocks to become trafficable again so we can undertake post-emergent spraying in the cereal crops to control broadleaf weeds, as well as apply urea. Pasture cleaning has also been undertaken as we rotate sheep through the lucerne pastures. The timely rain has provided a boost for the pastures, the growth of which had slowed, but has now responded well and has set a good profile going into Spring.

The trial paddocks have again been a hive of activity as users apply post-emergent sprays and treatment applications. FarmLink staff have carried out assessments and data collections for the Stubble Initiative Post-Harvest Management Trials including NDVI scans.

TAIC has continued to host a variety of events, with Landmark, Intersales, Hardi Australia and Delta Ag all taking advantage of the unique facilities available at TAIC, as well as FarmLink's own successful inaugural Ladies Day and Facilitation and Adult Learning Workshop.

## Diary

Ram Selection Workshop - August (date TBA)  
FarmLink Open Day - September 11  
Australian Universities Crop Competition - September 15 - 18

## Current Projects

FarmLink is currently collaborating on 16 projects covering a myriad of topics which have the potential to impact on the way farmers enact change in their farming systems.

Current projects:

- GRDC Crop Sequencing (CSP-00146)
- GRDC/Department of Agriculture Cropfacts Soil Carbon (AOTGR1-955086-42)
- GRDC Early Sowing (CSP-00178)
- GRDC Harvest Weed Seed ManagementTBA
- GRDC Managing Subsoil acidityTBA
- GRDC Micronutrient Deficiency (DAS000146)
- GRDC Regional Soil Testing (DAN0000168)
- GRDC Stubble Initiative (CSP-00174)
- GRDC Strategic Tillage (DAN00152)
- FarmLink Moisture Network and Yield Prophet
- Mirrool Creek Landcare Moisture Probe Education
- FarmLink/St Anne's Ag Elective Program
- Murray Long/FarmLink Livestock Efficiency and Productivity Research
- CSU/FarmLink Canola Allelopathy
- CSU/FarmLink Hardseeded Legume Systems Trial
- CSU/FarmLink Hardseeded Legume Grazing Trial

## Contacts

### FarmLink Research

361 Trungley Hall Road (PO Box 521)

TEMORA NSW 2666

P: 02 69801333 F: 02 6978 1290

E: [farmlink@farmlink.com.au](mailto:farmlink@farmlink.com.au) W: [www.farmlink.com.au](http://www.farmlink.com.au)

### Cindy Cassidy - Chief Executive Officer

M: 0467 244 631 E: [cindy@farmlink.com.au](mailto:cindy@farmlink.com.au)

### Debbie Clarke - Office Manager

E: [debbie@farmlink.com.au](mailto:debbie@farmlink.com.au)

### Tony Pratt - Research Technical Officer

Manager, Temora Ag Innovation Centre

M: 0448 066246 E: [tony@farmlink.com.au](mailto:tony@farmlink.com.au)

### Kellie Jones - Research and Extension Officer

M: 0429 780 428 E: [kellie@farmlink.com.au](mailto:kellie@farmlink.com.au)

### Kylie Dunstan - Communications Support

E: [kylie@farmlink.com.au](mailto:kylie@farmlink.com.au)



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