

the link



FarmLink Newsletter Spring 2015



10-year-old Katie Anderson, the daughter of Kerry and Lisa, enjoys a weekend break checking the canola on her family property 'Elwood', at The Gap, between Coolamon and Wagga.



Cindy to open Henty Field Days



Open Day caters for all



Livestock a growing part of Open Day

Catch up with CEO Cindy Cassidy

I love Spring!

Canola crops clothing the country side in gold. Wheat and barley crops a thick carpet of green. The air taking on that sweet warm smell. You would be nowhere else!

This edition of The Link, and our program, is full of our Open Day and the other spring events we have coming up. We have been focussing on balancing our cropping research and activities with equal interest in livestock trials and programs. You will see this come through in our Open Day program as well as the specific livestock program we are running in association with Murray Long, Riverina Local Land Services and the Graham Centre. There are some exciting initiatives in the livestock sector and renewed farmer interest in mixed farming which should result in real improvements productivity and profitability.

Recently we launched our new Partnership packages and I have been working with a number of local and regional businesses to develop our existing and some new Partnership arrangements that will deliver value for FarmLink members. We will be rolling out a range of member benefits being offered by our new and existing Partners. For example FarmLink farmer members attending the

Open Day can be in the running for 5kg Sakura contributed by Bayer, 1 tonne of pure wheat seed contributed by AGT breeding, 1 tonne of wheat seed and 40kg canola seed contributed by PacSeeds, \$500 discount on the purchase of a zzz from GrainGrowers, Hutcheon and Pearce will be giving away John Deere merchandise, CBA will provide drinks during the day and AGT is kindly providing refreshments at the end of the day.

On the business front I recently completed the five day Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) course which has provided some valuable insights into best practice business governance and board operation. I am working with the AICD to see if we can bring the course here and provide our members with the opportunity of doing the course and receiving a valuable qualification.

See you all at the Open Day.

Regards,
Cindy

Meet the Director: Rob McColl

Rob McColl is the Deputy Chair of the FarmLink Board, and this edition's feature of the Meet The Director section.

Rob and wife Joh operate a contract farming and management business in the Binalong/Galong District, as well as operating a farm at Boorowa which is mainly cropped with dual purpose varieties which allow for autumn and winter cattle and sheep trading opportunities as they arise.

Rob completed a Degree in Farm Business management at Orange Agricultural College in 1999 and has worked in the Turf and Pork industry as well. Rob also has been a chair of the Harden Murrumburrah Landcare stubble project at one time and was also a graduate of the FarmLink Rural Leadership program in 2011.

Some members got to know Rob a little better at the recent FarmLink Annual Dinner, where he provided the welcome and spoke a little about his views on the positive future of agriculture.



FarmLink Deputy Chair Rob McColl

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



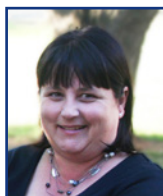
Chair
Darryl Harper



Deputy Chair
Rob McColl



Director
Rob Patterson



Director
Lisa Anderson



Director
Ron Heinrich



Director
Lyndon McNab



Director
Bernard Hart

Mixed Farming Focus for September 11

FarmLink open Day at TAIC

Embracing the high percentage of mixed farmers, along with continuous croppers and graziers, in the FarmLink membership, the field trials, demonstrations and guest speakers at this year's Annual Open Day will span a broad range of topics to provide information and experiences aimed at improving production in the region's farms.

The 2015 FarmLink Open Day is centred around four key themes - Wheat; Canola; Ladies' Agronomy Tour; and Livestock (all aimed at productivity and profitability of farming in the FarmLink Region).

The Open Day, to be held on Friday, September 11, at Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre, will start with welcomes, the official opening by Michael Bullen (Deputy Director General New South Wales Department of Primary Industries), addresses by the Commonwealth Bank's Tim Harvey and Tobin Gorey as well as James Rowe, Chief Executive Officer of Sheep CRC.

FarmLink CEO, Cindy Cassidy said the Open Day will be a real showcase of agricultural innovation. "We will have a range of field trials, static displays and presentations on show," Ms Cassidy said, "It will be an opportunity for anyone involved in agriculture throughout Southern New South Wales to grow their knowledge in the area of cropping, livestock and mixed farming, take that information back to their businesses and enact real, positive change."

Following the opening presentations, participants can select one of the four themes - Wheat, Canola, Ladies Agronomy Tour or Livestock - to attend for the morning session and board busses to be taken to the relevant in-paddock presentations by a range of researchers and collaborators. Everyone will return to the main area for lunch, in conjunction with livestock handling demonstrations, Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations and the drawing of giveaways, for FarmLink farmer members, provided by Australia Grain Technologies, Pacific Seeds and Bayer. A barbecue lunch will be available for purchase, including steak and sausage sandwiches, while complimentary soft drinks and water will be provided by the Commonwealth Bank.

Participants will then select a second theme they would like to participate in and board the bus to be taken to the relevant trial sites. The only exception is the Ladies' Agronomy Tour, which has



Accessing trials in the paddocks they're growing in is a big advantage for learning at the FarmLink Open Day, as seen at the 2014 event.

been designed to run over the morning and afternoon sessions.

The open day's four themes are -

1. Wheat: Variety Selection, Timing and Rotations to maximise your wheat crop (full details appear on page 8)
2. Canola: Technological advances to improve your canola crop (full details appear on page 7)
3. Ladies' Agronomy Tour (below)
4. Livestock: Profitable and Sustainable Sheep Production forum plus live demonstrations of handling equipment (full details appear on page 4)

A number of trade stalls will also attend the day, with participants having the opportunity to call in to them throughout the day.

The day will conclude with a sausage sizzle and refreshments provided by AGT Breeding.

Cost of the open day is \$30 members and \$40 non-members (including GST). If you are planning to attend, pre-payment is encouraged via direct deposit - Account Name: FarmLink Research Ltd; BSB: 062-557; Account Number: 1007 3508; include reference FL Open Day and then email payment details though to farmlink@farmlink.com.au

We're Goin' To The Henty Field Days

CEO to perform official opening

FarmLink Chief Executive Officer, Cindy Cassidy, will officially open the 2015 Henty Machinery Field Days in her capacity as NSW/ACT RIRDC Rural Women's Award winner. She will perform the official opening on Tuesday, September 22, taking time out from meeting visitors at the FarmLink stand located in the Local Land Services Shed.

Cindy was extremely honoured to be asked to open the field days, only the second woman given the opportunity to do so. In 2010, Governor General Quentin Bryce was the first and only other woman to open the field days. Cindy will focus on 'The Future of Farming' during her opening address before joining the FarmLink team on their display, located in the Local Land Services Shed over September 22, 23 and 24.

FarmLink has had a presence at the Henty Machinery Field Days for the past two years. "Personally I remember going to Henty as a young girl and it was the big day out - I remember being very

excited about going," Cindy said. "Our interest in being at Henty is to spread the FarmLink message. Initially I wasn't sure whether we could get any cut-through at such a big event with a broad cross-section of people. But last year we were overwhelmed and ran out of materials on the first day. Henty is a great platform to reach farmers - an event like Henty where everyone you know is there, you can see what other people are doing and be comfortable in the knowledge that the choice you make is not going against the tide."

At Henty this year, FarmLink will showcase data from a network of moisture probes across NSW. The data is coupled with Yield Prophet forecasting to deliver members a monthly snapshot of crops and soil moisture across the region via the Weather or Not Newsletter.

"This is a tool farmers can use to assist with their input decisions such as nitrogen applications, and other aspects of crop management," Cindy said.

Make sure you call in and see the FarmLink team at Henty this year!

Livestock a growing part of Open Day



The FarmLink Open Day Livestock Theme has been added as a part of the 2015 FarmLink Livestock Program, which also included the recent Improving Efficiencies in Sheep Workshop, where participants had the opportunity for hands-on learning.

Profitable and Sustainable Sheep Production is the focus of the Livestock theme of this year's FarmLink Open Day, fostering the mixed farming element of the growing annual event.

FarmLink's program is supported by Riverina Local Land Services, the Graham Centre and Clear View Consulting.

Geoff Minchin of Riverina Local Land Services will chair the Livestock theme's proceedings, which will take place in the TAIC Seminar Room. The Livestock Theme will open with Local Land Services District Veterinarian, Rahul Shankar speaking about Sheep Health and Disease Control; followed by Opportunities in Lamb Productivity - Pastures, Feedlotting other options explained by Geoff Duddy, Sheep Solutions.

Murray Long of ClearView Consulting will talk about Getting the most out of Sheep Genetics, followed by John Francis of Holmes Sackett presenting on Profitability of Sheep Enterprises. Over the lunch break participants can observe displays of sheep handling equipment, Electronic Identification technology, auto weighers and drafters. There will also be Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations in operation, as well as a range of trade displays to be visited

Lunch will consist of a BBQ, with steak and sausage sandwiches available for purchase, and complimentary drinks provided by FarmLink principal partner, the Commonwealth Bank. The drawing of giveaways, for FarmLink farmer members, provided by Australia

Grain Technologies, Pacific Seeds and Bayer, will also take place.

Participants will then move on to the afternoon session and select a second theme from the day's agenda - either

1. Wheat: Variety Selection, Timing and Rotations to maximise your wheat crop (full details appear on page 8); OR
2. Canola: Technological advances to improve your canola crop (full details appear on page 7)

The Ladies Agronomy Tour will run across both the morning and afternoon sessions, touching on aspects of each of the Wheat, Canola and Livestock themes.

The Livestock Theme will also be repeated in the afternoon session, to allow those who enjoyed the morning's Wheat or Canola Themes to switch to Livestock.

Following the afternoon sessions, everyone will then return to the main area for the Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations and then on to the close and refreshments sponsored by AGT breeding.

Cost of the open day is \$30 members and \$40 non-members (including GST). If you are planning to attend, pre-payment is encouraged via direct deposit - Account Name: FarmLink Research Ltd; BSB: 062-557; Account Number: 1007 3508; include reference FL Open Day and then email payment details though to farmlink@farmlink.com.au

Ladies' Agronomy Tour



The inaugural FarmLink Ladies Day, held in July, gave clear feedback of the need for additional initiatives targeted at the female farmer membership. In response to this, FarmLink has added a Ladies' Agronomy Tour to its Open Day program.

The addition of the Ladies' Agronomy Tour was in response to the recent FarmLink Ladies Day, where it was made clear there was a need for such initiatives.

"At our recent Ladies Day it was clear that creating a tailored opportunity for our female members to participate in our field events would help to make the information more accessible," said FarmLink Chief Executive Officer, Cindy Cassidy.

The Ladies' Agronomy Tour which will be conducted over the morning and afternoon sessions and will cover a combination of topics from each of the three Wheat, Canola and Livestock themes, with ladies being bussed around the trial plots at TAIC during the day.

The first session will feature CSIRO's James Hunt and Tony Swan, who will explain FarmLink's GRDC Stubble Initiative Trial 'Sequence for Seeders'. James will continue, detailing the innovation in early sown wheat varieties. From there, Andrew Lockley of Landmark will outline Pre-emergent Ryegrass Control and the role different canola varieties play, followed by Angus MacLennan of Bayer who will talk about Canola Herbicide Systems.

Before the tour returns to the main area for lunch, the ladies will have the opportunity to view the stubble incorporation and removal equipment display. Lunch will then consist of a BBQ, with steak and sausage sandwiches available for purchase, and complimentary

drinks provided by FarmLink principal partner, the Commonwealth Bank. During the lunch break there will also be livestock handling displays and Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations in operation, as well as a range of trade displays to be visited.

Lunch will conclude with the announcement of giveaways for FarmLink farmer members including one tonne of wheat from Australian Grain Technologies, one tonne of wheat seed and 2 x 20kg bags of Canola from Pacific Seeds and 5 kilograms of Sakura from Bayer.

Members of the ladies tour will then be taken through a livestock equipment handling demonstration by Murray Long of Clear View Consulting, before boarding the bus again and heading to the trial sites to hear from FarmLink's Kellie Jones about the GRDC Stubble Initiative Trial 'Incorporation and Removal of Stubble', then Colin Edmondson of Pacific Seeds who will talk about their new wheat varieties. The ladies will then have an opportunity for an early start on the Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations before moving back to the main area for refreshments sponsored by AGT breeding.

Cost of the open day is \$30 members and \$40 non-members (including GST). If you are planning to attend, pre-payment is encouraged via direct deposit - Account Name: FarmLink Research Ltd; BSB: 062-557; Account Number: 1007 3508; include reference FL Open Day and then email payment details though to farmlink@farmlink.com.au

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're continuing to introduce members of the Commonwealth Bank Agribusiness team via The Link over the next few editions, and in this Spring edition would like you to meet Leigh Schneider, who will be coming along to the FarmLink Open Day on September 11.



Leigh was born and bred on the family farm at Osborne and still spends his holidays helping out at harvest time, as the number one chaser bin driver.

He came from a family of three boys and is now happily married with three young boys and a fourth child due in December. "Fingers crossed for a girl to keep the wife happy." They all live at Ostrich Park, Osborne, 15km south of Lockhart.

As an Agribusiness Executive, Leigh sees his focus as sharing his customers' passion in farming and working together to achieve their vision, create wealth and see the industry prosper.

Out of the office Leigh's time is occupied with football through the winter mixed with some snow skiing, followed by cricket and water skiing in the summer months.

What is the most exciting thing about agriculture today?

The fast evolution of technology within agriculture will change the way things are done and the current market conditions.

What's something many people would not know about you?

I sleepwalk fairly often usually ending up at the fridge.

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

Apart from the weather, it would be good to have more control over my batting average.



Across southern NSW, crop conditions heading into Spring look about as good as we could hope for. Grain prices are always a bit different, with everybody always hoping for more! Let's run through some of the factors expected to play a part in harvest pricing this year.

The east coast wheat price is still trading an El Nino risk premium, even in the face of our current friendly weather conditions and the greater global market continuing to receive bearish news. Everybody has heard plenty about the large global supplies of wheat and other feed grains over the last 12 months, so let's begin by reflecting on what happened with prices last harvest. Despite a lot of 'globally bearish markets' chatter from traders/marketers/broker we still witnessed very strong domestic prices at harvest. Focussing on the east coast of Australia, we came into last season with a 'fairly small carry-in versus recent history', we then saw a particularly dry Victorian spring which reduced the size of the southern crop, Nthn NSW & Queensland continued to experience a record breaking drought and very profitable feed lotting businesses were carrying record cattle on feed numbers. All of this culminated in a good domestic bid throughout the season. External of these wheat market fundamentals, another very important input last year was the depreciation in the AUD. Between last July and the end of harvest, the change in the AUD added around \$AU50 to the farm gate wheat price when compared to the American farmer, effectively 'rescuing' the Australian farmer from the full effect of a weakening world market. The bearish chatter was fuelled by the USD export market, and despite not translating to the Aussie domestic price last harvest, it actually was correct in the US\$ export markets.

So the question now becomes should we believe the current round of 'globally bearish markets leading to weak Aussie domestic prices' chatter from traders/marketers/broker as we head into the approaching harvest? Recapping the situation as it stands might shed some light. The AUD today is at 6 year lows around 73c, US wheat futures sit around five year lows of US\$185/mt, the ASX market is trading US\$215/mt and German FOB values are currently US\$190/mt (remember that FOB includes US\$15-20 more in supply chain costs than the futures market equivalents). According to most major weather authorities, typical El Nino indicators continue to indicate a weather risk for the remainder of the year, however currently a large proportion of the East coast wheat belt is in a good place. While cattle prices remain historically very high, the cattle on feed numbers are down & the sorghum crop was larger than recent years. It is important to remind ourselves that in a 'normal' year the East coast produces about 6mln tonnes of wheat more than we consume, which is usually exported to destinations which are becoming increasingly willing to buy 'cheap' wheat from European & Former Soviet countries. With all this in mind, what possible catalysts could cause a rally in AU\$ farm gate price between now & harvest? Listed below are ten factors which are possible today:-

- El Nino brings on a hot/dry spring and the crop falls over pushing Australian basis higher.
- Extreme frost damage across the country.
- A wet harvest pushes APW prices higher while feed wheat drops further.
- A northern hemisphere corn issue, dragging the whole complex higher.

- An issue with the Argentinian crop dragging high protein wheat higher.
- Northern hemisphere wheat offer completely run out by the time we start harvest
- Russian crisis/war event to stop exports
- Chinese step into the market & start buying a lot of wheat.
- Global economic inflationary situation pushes a multitude of investment into commodities dragging ag futures higher.
- The AUD trading 65c in October/November

But although there are many reasons why we could go higher, none of these are evident today and hence we shouldn't base our market scenarios on these right now. Instead, let's talk only about what we actually do know today and try to be prepared not to get hurt by one of these upside catalysts. What do we know today? East coast Australian wheat is priced at US\$40 above competing origins values, export consumers are buying hand to mouth and local grain belt weather conditions are comfortable. Without one of the catalysts above occurring, you can imagine harvest will likely see stubborn sellers not keen to let grain go at prices possibly lower than they've been for a number of years. On the other side will sit stubborn buyers unwilling to pay up for Australian wheat if they are seeing better prices from elsewhere in the world. Something will have to give, but just what will it be?

Looking at the canola side of things, the global oilseeds situation is heavy on the back of strong soybean production, which should lead to another big carryout in the US for 2015/16 and no issues on the supply side. A similar story exists for palm oil, pressuring the oil market even further over the coming six months. Canola production is a different story, lowering year-on-year globally mainly on the back of reduced EU production but also to some extent the reduced area planted in Canada and Australia. That said, the market today has already gone some way towards countering the lower supply by trying to limit overall canola demand, with a lower crush margins giving processors the incentive to crush soybeans instead of canola wherever it is possible. So based on the current relative values, the canola picture today is at best balanced and at worst slightly oversupplied.

In Australia, domestic crush margin are currently extremely poor which doesn't really encourage buyers to take on long-term coverage. The mainly cause is low canola meal values, impacted by the large amount of soybean meal available. There is a chance some commercial crush plants could be better off taking some down time if margins remain where they are today. After being overpriced earlier in the season, Australian canola seed is getting closer to hitting export parity into Europe, but at the same time is totally disconnected to any other destination with Canada beating us as a much better option. In that sense, we could find the Aussie GM crop is a struggle to market this year.

Where will the canola price be in 3 months? It is a tough question when it is so hard to even pick what each night will see the price do! Canola supply is tighter this year than last year, but this seems to have already been factored in by the market. AUD could support values if it continued to slide, otherwise it seems likely canola will follow the overall gloomy situation today on beans/grains/energy.

Not a lot of positive talk today I know, but there still a lot of water to flow under the bridge (and hopefully from the sky) before harvest!

Learn about technological advances in Canola



The importance of canola in the crop rotation is the focus of the Canola Theme at this year's FarmLink Open Day.

Farmers using Canola as an important part of their crop rotation production, are urged to select the Canola Theme as one of the sessions they attend at the FarmLink Open Day on September 11.

Technological Advances to Improve your Canola Crop is the focus of the theme, with the morning session to be duplicated in the afternoon, giving as many people as possible the opportunity to hear from experts in their fields and see the trials at Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre for themselves.

First presenter in the Canola Theme will be Angus MacLennan of Bayer who will discuss Blackleg Management and the important considerations for open pollinated TT canola. He will be followed by Andrew Lockley of Landmark talking about the importance of Pre-emergent Rye Grass Control and the role that different canola genetics can play in achieving this.

Angus MacLennan of Bayer will then return, speaking about Canola Herbicide Systems – Roundup Ready, Triazine Tolerant, RRTT and interactions with propryzamide, before FarmLink's Tony Pratt will take participants through the GRDC Stubble Initiative Trial 'Incorporation and Removal of Stubble', which is followed by the opportunity to examine the equipment used in the stubble trial.

Lunch will then consist of a BBQ, with steak and sausage sandwiches available for purchase, and complimentary drinks provided by FarmLink principal partner, the Commonwealth Bank. During the lunch break there will also be the livestock handling displays and Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations in operation, as well as a range of trade displays to be visited.

Lunch will conclude with the announcement of giveaways for

FarmLink farmer members including one tonne of wheat from Australian Grain Technologies, one tonne of wheat seed and 2 x 20kg bags of Canola from Pacific Seeds and 5 kilograms of Sakura from Bayer.

Participants will then move on to the afternoon session and select a second theme from the day's agenda, either -

- Wheat: Variety Selection, Timing and Rotations to maximise your wheat crop (full details appear on page 8)
- Livestock: Profitable and Sustainable Sheep Production forum plus live demonstrations of handling equipment (full details appear on page 4)

The Ladies Agronomy Tour will run across both the morning and afternoon sessions, touching on aspects of each of the Wheat, Canola and Livestock themes.

The Canola Theme will also be repeated in the afternoon session, to allow those who enjoyed the morning's Wheat or Livestock Themes to switch to Canola.

Following the afternoon sessions, everyone will then return to the main area for the Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations and then on to refreshments sponsored by AGT breeding.

Cost of the open day is \$30 members and \$40 non-members (including GST). If you are planning to attend, pre-payment is encouraged via direct deposit - Account Name: FarmLink Research Ltd; BSB: 062-557; Account Number: 1007 3508; include reference FL Open Day and then email payment details though to farmlink@farmlink.com.au

What, When and Where of Wheat



St Anne's Central School Ag students learning how to do plant counts in their wheat trial plot at TAIC. Students will feature at the FarmLink Open Day on the Wheat theme tour where they will discuss what they have discovered about the impact of nitrogen on crop growth.

Variety Selection, Timing and Rotations to Maximise Your Wheat Crop will be the focus of the Wheat Theme of the 2015 FarmLink Open Day.

Those participants choosing the Wheat Theme for their morning session will be bussed to the trial site where Andrew Lockley of Landmark will discuss the Impact of Sowing Time on Wheat Variety Performance. Colin Edmondson of PacSeeds will discuss his company's new Wheat Varieties, followed by James Whiteley of AGT Breeding, who will showcase AGT's new wheat varieties.

James Hunt and Tony Swan from the CSIRO will outline ongoing research in the GRDC Stubble Initiative Trial 'Sequence for Seeders', followed by the students of St Anne's Central School, who will proudly display their trial plot and reveal what they have found out about the Impact of Nitrogen on Crop Growth. James Hunt of the CSIRO will then return to discuss Early Sown Wheat Varieties.

Everyone will then have the opportunity to move on to the Stubble Incorporation and Removal equipment displays, before being bussed back to the main area.

Lunch will then consist of a BBQ, with steak and sausage sandwiches available for purchase, and complimentary drinks provided by FarmLink principal partner, the Commonwealth Bank. During the lunch break there will also be the livestock handling displays and Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations in operation, as well as a range of trade displays to be visited.

The lunch break will conclude with the announcement of giveaways for FarmLink farmer members including one tonne of wheat from Australian Grain Technologies, one tonne of wheat seed and 2 x

20kg bags of Canola from Pacific Seeds and 5 kilograms of Sakura from Bayer.

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The Ladies Agronomy Tour will run across both the morning and afternoon sessions, touching on aspects of each of the Wheat, Canola and Livestock themes.

The Wheat Theme will also be repeated in the afternoon session (with the exception of the St Anne's section), to allow those who enjoyed the morning's Livestock or Canola Themes to switch to Wheat.

Following the afternoon sessions, everyone will then return to the main area for the Hutcheon and Pearce Gator demonstrations and then on to the close and refreshments sponsored by AGT breeding.

Cost of the open day is \$30 members and \$40 non-members (including GST). If you are planning to attend, pre-payment is encouraged via direct deposit - Account Name: FarmLink Research Ltd; BSB: 062-557; Account Number: 1007 3508; include reference FL Open Day and then email payment details though to farmlink@farmlink.com.au

Managing Stubble Loads

GRDC funded FarmLink Research & CSIRO Stubble Initiative trial – post harvest stubble management

Many grain growers in Australia chose to manage stubble by harvesting crops low to the ground (10-15 cm) and spreading residues as best as possible across the width of the header. However, in SNSW large stubble loads combined with frequent harvest rainfall mean that this may not be the most profitable option for growers in this region.

Initial measurements by FarmLink and CSIRO showed that using a large, modern header to harvest a wheat crop at 15 cm height cost an additional \$77/ha compared to harvesting at 60 cm due to reduced harvest efficiency, increased fuel use and decreased yield.

Further data is needed to validate this result, and FarmLink staff will shortly be asking for volunteer members to do some very small and easy in paddock measurements at harvest time. However, on the basis of the initial result, it seems likely that it is more profitable to cut stubble high and harvest as quickly as possible, and then manage the stubble later during the summer fallow so that it is possible to sow through it the next year without suffering blockages or patchy establishment. This paddock scale, replicated trial aims to compare different options for post-harvest management of stubble. Treatments are;

- a. Full stubble retention
- b. Late burn
- c. Gason Mulcher
- d. Harper Stubble Cruncher
- e. K-line Speedtiller
- f. K-line Trashcutter
- g. Lemken Heliodor

These treatments have been applied to stubble cut high and low at harvest. Canola has been bulk sown across all treatments, and crop establishment, weed counts and NDVI have been measured (Table 1). Total dry matter and yield will be measured at the end of the year.

GRDC Project code: CSP00174

Treatment	Dry matter (kg/ha)		Grass weed density (plants/m ²)	Broadleaf weed density (plants/m ²)
	Short	Tall	(no main effect of height)	(no main effect of height)
Burn	238	187	8	5
Gason Mulcher	222	196	11	5
Harper Stubble Cruncher	261	171	17	8
Kline Speedtiller	231	179	2	9
Kline Trashcutter	253	185	13	16
Lemken Helidor	271	186	4	14
Retain	244	200	10	3
P value	0.039		<0.001	0.030
LSD (P<0.05)	27		3	2

Table 1. Estimated dry matter (calculated from NDVI) for different treatments 21 July 2015 and weed density measured 23 June 2015. There was no significant effect of treatment on crop establishment with mean density being 40 plants/m².

Seasons in Stubble YouTube Series

Have you seen the FarmLink Seasons in Stubble video series designed at documenting the research being conducted by FarmLink under the GRDC funded Stubble Initiative?

The series was created using footage from last year's Stubble Demonstration Day, featuring different equipment and treatments for stubble management. Many of these items of equipment will be assembled again at the 2015 FarmLink Open day and available for examination.

The first set of videos in the Seasons in Stubble Series is featured below and can be viewed by following the relevant links. This is just another way FarmLink is keeping members informed about the groundbreaking research and projects being conducted throughout the FarmLink region. Further additions to the series will be created and uploaded as the Stubble Initiative research progresses

FarmLink Research - Stubble Demonstration Day 2014 Intro video can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/zpiF3js4U44>

The demo day featured a range of equipment trials, with the following videos also available for viewing -

Harper Stubble Cruncher - <http://youtu.be/SetVD1OH9lw>

K-Line Speed Tiller - <http://youtu.be/t-2R5OexiuI>

K-Line Trash Cutter - <http://youtu.be/ILhAN8O12tw>

Lemken Heliodor - <http://youtu.be/3gq2XZ9MfFI>

For the past two years FarmLink Research and the GRDC have partnered to conduct a paddock scale experiment comparing plant growth, yield and profitability of different harvest and post harvest stubble management techniques.

The project is part of the GRDC Stubble Initiative and was established in December 2013 on the property of Ben and Lou Beck at Downside.

View the video about the project - <http://youtu.be/M6USwWXI-Tk>

Principal Partner

CommonwealthBank
Agribusiness



Silver Partner



Bayer CropScience



Bronze Partner



agribusiness



Corporate Member



Legal advice generously provided by



Out & About



Shared knowledge on-farm is a real drawcard for the Annual Winter Bus Tour, with participants pictured at John Pattison's Marrar property.



An Adult Facilitation Workshop hosted by FarmLink at TAIC was aimed at building facilitation skills in participants.



Hands-on learning was offered as a part of the latest event on the FarmLink Livestock Program, the Improving Sheep Efficiencies in Sheep Workshop (supported by Riverina LLS, The Graham Centre and Clear View Consulting).



St Anne's Ag Elective students visited their trial plot at TAIC to undertake plant counts as a part of the collaboration between FarmLink and St Anne's aimed at fostering future farmers.



Temora Truck and Tractor recently took advantage of the unique facilities at TAIC to host a Drive It day.

Out on the Farm

An update from Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre (TAIC)



Timely application of urea and chemical has been a bit challenging around the region due to recent rain, but as soon as paddocks have been accessible it has been all systems go, as seen at TAIC recently.

Wet and green

We have had slightly less rain in August so far compared to the same time last month (18.5 mm) but have had some regular winter rain events which have been very welcome. Our paddocks remain quite wet and like many farmers in the district we have had some difficulty getting on paddocks for timely urea and chemical application. We have created some wheel tracks in what we thought were our drier paddocks which will require some minor re-levelling prior to seeding next year.

We have spread 100 Kg /ha of urea on our canola and 60kg/ha on our cereals to date and don't anticipate any further applications. As mentioned, despite the wet paddock conditions we have actively managed our weed issues pre and post emergence and our weed burden is low. Our moisture probe indicates that we have 175mm of plant available water in the profile in the probe paddock and with an average finish to the season we are forecasting average wheat yields around 3t/ha, canola 1.9t/ha and 3t/ha for barley. We will still be dependent on September and October weather conditions for the final outcome.

Our trials in Paddocks 3,4 & 5 are being prepared for the Open Day with lane ways and trial ends being sprayed and slashed to ensure that the site and the trials are presented in great condition for September 11. All of the trial companies and contributors have been busy with treatment applications, assessments and data collection. The trial paddocks are really taking shape as the trials - time of sowing, varietal difference and treatment combinations - are creating a patchwork across the landscape.

Pasture and ground cover have been managed well to ensure that we have good feed supply for the white Suffolk flock going into spring. Some winter cleaning of pasture paddocks will see some generous lucerne pasture which will really start to produce as things warm up in the next few weeks.

TAIC and FarmLink has hosted events for Temora Truck and Tractor, and we have hosted representatives from Bayer Crop Science, the new Director of CYMMIT based in Mexico and Dow Agro Sciences.

Diary

FarmLink Open Day - September 11
Australian Universities Crop Competition - September 15 - 18
Henty Machinery Field Days - September 22, 23, 24
Managing Ewes pre-joining and marketing lambs through summer - October 30

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 Trugley Hall Road (PO Box 521)

TEMORA NSW 2666

P: 02 69801333 F: 02 6978 1290

E: farmlink@farmlink.com.au W: www.farmlink.com.au

Cindy Cassidy - Chief Executive Officer

M: 0467 244 631 E: cindy@farmlink.com.au

Lisa Goesch - Office Manager

E: lisa@farmlink.com.au

Tony Pratt - Research Technical Officer Manager, Temora Ag Innovation Centre

M: 0448 066246 E: tony@farmlink.com.au

Kellie Jones - Research and Extension Officer

M: 0429 780 428 E: kellie@farmlink.com.au

Kylie Dunstan - Communications Support

E: kylie@farmlink.com.au



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Our major project funding partner is

