

The Link

FarmLink Newsletter

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Dear FarmLink Members

I am very pleased to welcome you to this, the Summer edition of The Link. I have been with FarmLink for over 12 months and I am pleased to report that my first impressions of the commitment, passion and sense of purpose of the staff, executive and members of FarmLink have been continually reinforced throughout the year. The FarmLink business has changed enormously since this time last year and it is a credit to our staff, board, members and sponsors that FarmLink has been able to deliver and accept those changes.

With another eventful harvest drawing to a close across the region and Christmas almost upon us I think we can all say it has been a big year. I would simply like to thank you all – members, staff, directors and sponsors – for your encouragement and support. I am very pleased with our progress and excited by the opportunities open to us next year. I see 2015 as a chance to continue the development of the business and consolidation of the change that we started this year. We will continue to work to generate greater recognition of the value that FarmLink creates for regional agriculture and our local communities.

I would particularly like to thank Phil Moroney who has worked with FarmLink as TAIC Farm Coordinator since 2012. Phil is leaving this month to pursue his shearing career. He has been the 'face' of TAIC for most of the researchers and trial users using the

centre and is universally recognised as a hard worker, committed to helping in any way he can to improve both TAIC and FarmLink. Phil's positive outlook and energy have made a real difference for me this year and I speak on behalf of the other staff and the board, when I say that he will be missed and we are grateful for all he has done. Thank you and good luck, Phil.

The only event left on our calendar for 2014 is the Stubble Demonstration/Livestock Confinement/General Meeting /Christmas Party, all in one on the afternoon of the 19th Dec. There is something in the program for everyone AND the promise of a refreshment at the end! I hope that you will be able to make it – come for all or part of the program; bring your family. We hope to finish the year on a high note with a resounding thank you to all our members.

For those of you with a bigger distance to travel we have received some funding to contribute to the cost of buses to get you here and home again – let us know that you are keen to come and we can book you a seat!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Cindy Cassidy
FarmLink Research CEO

Office Hours

The FarmLink office will be closed from Christmas Eve to the 4th January, 2015.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre Update

Manager's Update

Tony Pratt

A dry spring and some warmer weather in October really shaped the end of the cropping season this year and ensured that an early harvest would be a reality. A combined rainfall total for September and October of 53mm was well below average and created a lot of uncertainty as November drew closer.

Windrowing commenced on the 27th of October with Gem and some of the varieties in the Pioneer STRIKE trial paddock along the Trungley Hall Road being ready to windrow. We also windrowed the first timing (treatment 1) of the paddock scale Bayer Pod Guard windrow/direct head trial. The second windrow timing treatment and the small grazing canola trial paddock containing some long season Hyola 971CL was windrowed on the 4th of November.

Canola harvest commenced on the 6th of November with some surprising results coming from Gem. The average yield was 1.53t/ha which was an excellent result given the low moisture conditions and some minor frost damage. Our windrow/direct head trial paddock averaged over 2t/ha which was on brown manure peas in the previous year. Some varieties in the Pioneer STRIKE trial yielded up to 2t/ha and overall this was a very pleasing result.

Harvest of the wheat and barley at TAIC got under way on the 26th of November with a paddock of Spitfire wheat giving an average yield of 3.4t/ha, average protein level of 12.2% and screenings of 1.7%. This resulted in a H2 grade category. Scope barley was harvested next and yielded 3.2t/ha which was a little down on what we had hoped for but the F1 barley price was encouraging this year. Some excellent barley results from around the Temora area have been recorded this year with yields up to 5t/ha.

Dual purpose Wedgetail wheat was solid this year and considering the grazing benefits we were happy with the 2.84t/ha yield. Quality was a little variable across the board with grades from H2 to ASW. Screenings and protein contributed to the variability. We finished harvest on Spitfire and achieved good protein and screening numbers that helped us into APH2 for more than a third of the grain delivered from the paddock with an overall yield average of 3.3t/ha.

Some lupins were harvested and considering the severe frost damage in early August it was surprising to see them recover to the extent they did. We realised 35 tonne off 32 hectares which was more than acceptable given the frost damage they sustained.

It was a pleasant surprise to see the grain tank on the header filling up as it did and to see that there was some protein potential, was a bonus. All in all, we were very satisfied with the harvest results at the TAIC.

Best Regards

Tony Pratt



Above: Tony Pratt, TAIC Manager and Research Officer, FarmLink Research

TAIC Rainfall

Rainfall for 2014, so far

Jan 20.6 mm

Feb 29.6 mm

Mar 83.9 mm

Apr 56.4 mm

May 71.3 mm

June 64.8mm

July 44.5mm

Aug 26.2mm

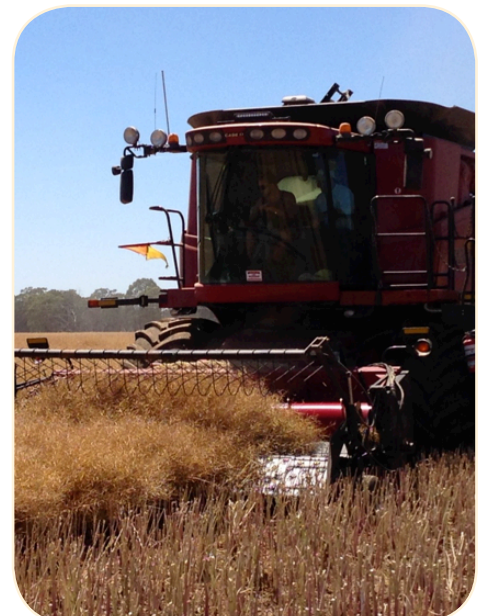
Sept 35mm

Oct 17.6mm

Nov 19.8mm

Dec 37.6mm

TOTAL = 507.3mm



Merry Christmas



You and your family are invited to

FarmLink's Stubble Management Demonstration & Christmas Party

We do hope you and your family can join us on the **19th December, 2014** at the **Temora Agricultural Innovation Centre**. The **Christmas Party** kicks off at **4.15pm** and children are most welcome.

We will be showcasing;

2.00pm Establishment of Stubble Incorporation and Removal replicated trial. Demonstrations of **Lemken Heliodor, Harper Stubble Cruncher, K-Line Speedtiller® and Trashcutter™**, see results at FarmLink's Open Day 10th September, 2015.

3.40pm Preparing your farm for drier than normal summer and autumn conditions - livestock confinement areas.

4.00pm FarmLink General Meeting

4.15pm FarmLink family Christmas Party
Lolly bags and soft drinks for the kids, BBQ and refreshments provided.

6.30pm Close

Need help in getting there?

There will be buses travelling from;

- Barellan
- Lockhart/Henty
- Harden
- Coolamon
- Grenfell

If you would like to come along on a bus contact Debbie at FarmLink asap and we will confirm departure points and times (bus travel will be subject to numbers). Cost \$20pp.

RSVP: Friday 12th December, 2014
P: 02 69801333
or email debbie@farmlink.com.au

The stubble demonstration is supported by;
Maintaining Profitable Farming Systems with Retained Stubble Project



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- Debbie Clarke, Office Manager

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