Sclerotinia economics case study: Galong 2015

BACKGROUND

For 14 years Rob McColl has been farming at "Bobbra" near Galong in the south west slopes of NSW in a mixed farming practice which incorporates livestock, pastures, cereals and canola. A typical rotation at "Bobbra" starts with a clover based pasture phase of 4-5 years followed by canola - cereal - canola - cereal - canola - cereal (undersown).

During Rob's time at Galong, sclerotinia has been a prevalent disease in his canola phases with the exception of drought years, however it's only in the past 3-4 years that spraying to control the disease has become common practice, which Rob puts down to increased knowledge and cost effectiveness of management options.

In most years (except drought) all the canola at Bobbra would receive at least one application of Prosaro® which is applied by self propelled ground rig, which Rob believes give his operation the ability act quickly and achieve thorough spray coverage to optimise results.

Location	Galong
Grower	Rob McColl
Variety	ATR-GEM
Flowering length	6-7 weeks
Sowing date	28th April
Application date	28th August
Application	100L/ha (ground)
Aviator® Xpro rate	800 mL/ha
Flowering stage	20-50%
Aviator® Xpro yield	2.7
Untreated	2.2
ROI $/ha	**$210.50 /Ha***

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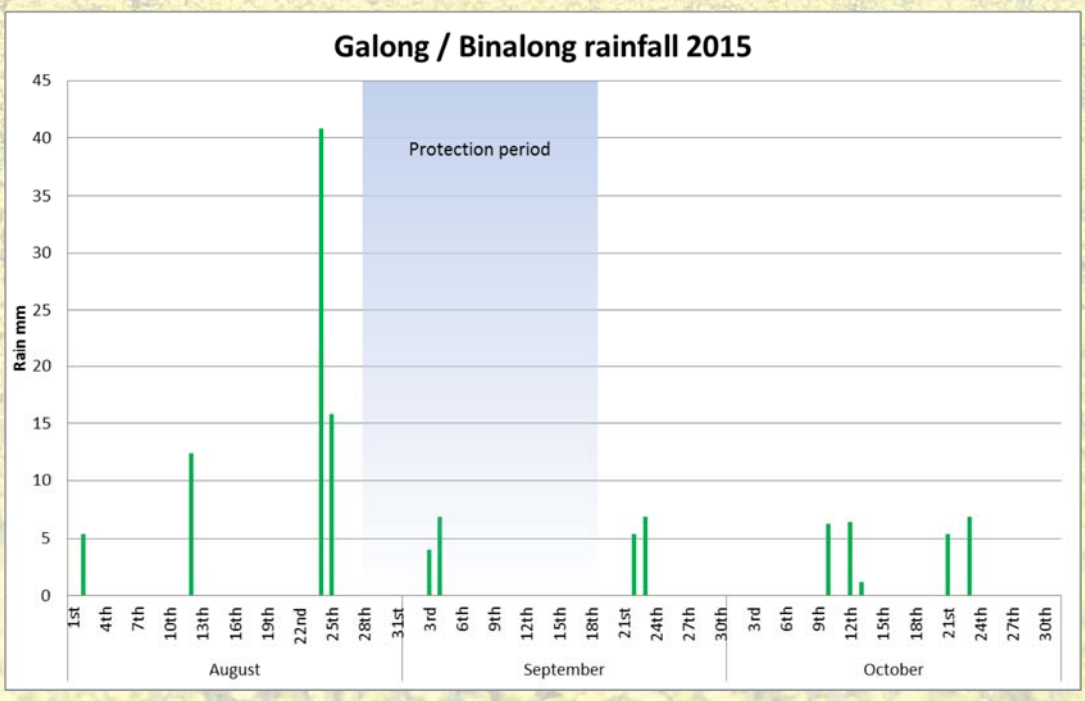

OUTCOMES AND CONSIDERATIONS

2015 was a good year for canola on the SW slopes, however lodging of big crops and sclerotinia limited the true yield potential. This area tends to receive more reliable spring rainfall and softer finishes and as result the decision whether to spray for sclerotinia is usually an easier one.

GROWERS' COMMENT

"Fungicide application on canola in our region has been a hands down winner in the past three years. We have seen yield increases of up to 500 kg ha - easy money!" *Rob McColl*

Bayer CropScience

This is one in a series of four case studies developed from research undertaken in a partnership between FarmLink and Bayer Crop Science in 2015. The full series can be found at www.farmlink.com.au

NOTE: Aviator® Xpro is a new foliar fungicide by Bayer Crop Science which contains the active ingredients prothioconazole and bixafen. Aviator® Xpro will be registered in a range of broad acre crops including canola and is expected to be commercially available in 2017.

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