

Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

June 2015

Commodity Prices on the Rise in 2015

Collated by Ruth Sommerville

Over the last month there has been a surge in the prices of many of our regions key commodities, having significant impacts on the potential profitability of this years crops and livestock.

Australian cattle prices started 2015 on a very positive note, with the Eastern Young Cattle Indicator (EYCI) averaging 437¢/kg cwt over the March quarter - the highest quarterly average on record. Following higher than expected cattle slaughter across the eastern states during the first quarter of 2015, the national adult kill has now been revised up 400,000 head to 8.2 million. International demand for Australian beef for the remainder of the year is set to continue with the same intensity as the first quarter and exports are forecast to reach 1.15 million tonnes swt, back 11% year-on-year, but still the third consecutive year over one million tonnes swt.

Wool auctions have been described as going ballistic over the past week, with prices at four-year highs and still rising. The Eastern Market Indicator, now above \$13 a kilo, is up \$3 since the start of the year. The prices are being driven by high Indian and Chinese demand with overall global demand for wool on the rise. In addition the pass-in rate at auction is at its lowest level since AWI started taking records 13 years ago.

Canola prices are on the rise for a number of reasons. The International Grains Council reported global rapeseed stocks are set to plunge by 26 per cent, despite the first drop in consumption in nine years. The European Union's rapeseed harvest is predicted to drop by 2.2m tonnes year-on-year. Across Australia farmers have swung away from canola and dropped it from their rotations. Canada's crop, which is the top exporting nation, has been downgraded significantly on the back of lower than expected plantings. In addition the Manitoba Crop Report this week revealed that significant damage has been caused to canola fields across the region, as temperatures dropped to -10°C in some areas. The canola crop has been particularly vulnerable to the recent frost as it has had to struggle with earlier freezing temperatures in May as well as heavy flea beetle pressure. In the Southwest region it has been reported that up to 60% of the crop could have suffered from frost damage and the extent of the damage is still being assessed in other regions. The report therefore suggests that reseeding could be widespread throughout the Province, which produced 15% of the Canadian canola crop in 2014. The immediate reaction to the news of the struggling canola crop has been a bounce in Winnipeg canola futures with flow on effects across the global commodity markets. The strength of the bullish sentiment caused by the Canadian frost will depend on confirmation on how much of the crop is damaged and how well the reseeding process goes. The higher US dollar is also helping Australian prices.

SOURCES:

http://www.mla.com.au/Prices-and-markets/Trends-and-analysis/Beef/Forecasts

http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-06-01/wool-prices-hit-four-year-high/6511864

http://www.weeklytimesnow.com.au/agribusiness/cropping/local-grain-prices-rise-due-to-dry-weather-as-global-valuessoften/story-fnker6ee-1227379570965

http://www.hgca.com/markets/market-news/2015/june/02/grain-market-daily-rapeseed-futures-bounce-on-canadianfrosts.aspx

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Upper North Farming Systems Production Zoning Workshops

SPEAKERS

Michael Wells

Precision Cropping Technologies

John Squires and Claire Gutsche

Rural Directions Pty Ltd

DETAILS

12 June 2015, 9am – 12pm

Joe and Jess Koch's farm,

Booleroo Centre

12 June 2015, 1.30pm – 4.30pm

Robert & Michelle Dennis' farm,

Port Germein

With the increasing costs of cropping and highly variable rainfall in parts of the Upper North it is increasingly important that land use is appropriately matched to land type and condition.

The Upper North Farming System is holding two on-farm workshops to demonstrate the tools that are available to assist producers to analyse their production zones. This includes the use of satellite imagery and yield data. The half day workshops will show producers how these tools can be used to develop and implement appropriate land management systems.

By attending this workshop you will:

- Be introduced to satellite imagery and how it can be used for production zoning
- Analyse the production zone maps of nearby paddocks
- Discuss implications associated with the production zones and enterprise choice
- Assess the impact production zoning can have on your gross margins

Each three hour workshop will include a couple of hours for group discussion with the speakers and then a visit to the property demonstration site.

This workshop is part of the Pasture and Production Zoning project, funded by the Northern and Yorke NRM Board and the Commonwealth Government.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Claire at Rural Directions Pty Ltd

on 8841 4500 or email cgutsche@ruraldirections.com



Government of South Australia

Northern and Yorke Natural Resources Management Board

Simazine resistant silver grass - Unintended Consequences

AHRI INSIGHT #46

When Airbus delivered the first A380 aircraft in 2008 they were very proud of the fact that it was the quietest commercial airliner ever produced.

The unintended consequence of this, however, was that it led to a worse experience for passengers as more unpleasant noises (e.g. crying babies, snoring passengers, flushing toilets) were elevated in the quieter cabin. Back to the drawing board! They actually engineered some sound back into the cabin by piping in ambient noise.

When ConsultAg agronomist Garren Knell tackled a high ryegrass seedbank with one of his clients in southwest Western Australia 12 years ago, they opted to introduce legume based pasture and triazine tolerant canola into the rotation. They took an aggressive approach to managing the ryegrass seedbank and it payed off.

The unintended consequence, was one of Australia's first populations of simazine resistant silver grass.

Garren sampled some silver grass in 2014 and Dr Mike Ashworth (former AHRI researcher) confirmed that it was highly resistant to simazine. The population was in fact more than 594 fold resistant. Genetic testing revealed that the mechanism for resistance was a common one that often gives high level resistance.

The rotation Garren's client adopted resulted in 8 applications of triazine in 12 years. The ryegrass received double knocks in the form of grazing, spray topping and clethodim. The silver grass avoided these second knocks, and on reflection, the triazine herbicides were the only tool used in 8 of the 12 years for silver grass control.

This goes to show that when our eye is on the world champion of resistance, annual ryegrass, it is pretty easy to inadvertently evolve resistance in another weed. So what other herbicides are still available for this population?

Read More: http://ahri.uwa.edu.au/simazine-resistant-silver-grass/



Pastoral Profit launched with free webinar



The fundamentals of creating an economically sustainable livestock business in the pastoral zone is the subject of a free webinar that will be held on Tuesday 9 June, 12:30 - 1:30pm EST.

Register for the webinar here >



Australian Wool

UNFS AGM - Notice of Intent to Vary Constitution

Upper North Farming Systems will be holding its AGM at the Annual Field Day on August 6th. As part of the 2015 AGM the committee intends to present resolutions to update the constitution to reflect the new model of operation for the organisation. In addition the Strategic Plan for the Group will be presented for approval by the members. A pre-AGM meeting will be held 1 month prior to the AGM where the committee will discuss these changes. Members are welcome to attend this meeting and provide input to the constitution proposals and the new model of operation for the group going forward. Additional details will be circulated shortly.

_{for those} curious about campground hosting join us _{and} veteran campground hosts _{for our}

volunteer campground host induction and training weekend June 19 – 21 2015

mambray creek campground mount remarkable national park

^{all} welcome

bookings essential ^{and} close 10 June

Don't miss out!

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resource

campground hosts have a sense of adventure and enjoy sharing their love of the outdoors ^{with} like minded ^{people.}

beautiful walking trails
two nights camping
campfires
bbg

^{for} information ^{or} bookings _{contact} Lynn Newman

> Volunteer Programs Coordinator Regional Coordination Branch

08 8124 4841 lynn.newman@sa.gov.au

John White Photos

GRDC Farming the Business Manual



The need for improved farm business management skills has been identified as a crucial element for Australian farmers to maintain business sustainability, while taking up the opportunity currently occurring in Australian agriculture.

This is an exciting project as there is both a traditional manual and an eBook version of the manual.

ORDER YOUR COPY NOW. ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF COPIES ARE AVAILABLE.

To order your copy from Ground Cover Direct quote order no. **GRDC873**.

Postage/ Handling: Free Phone: Email: Post:

\$10.00 1800 11 00 44 <u>subscribers@grdc.com.au</u> Ground Cover Direct, PO Box 7456, CANBERRA MC ACT 2610

eBook Manual

The eBook version of this manual can be accessed via the Apple iTunes store. Click on the button below or visit <u>iTunes</u> and search for 'Farming the Business'.



Please note the Farming the Business Manuals are very large and may take several hours to download from iTunes. For information on downloading and navigating the Farming the Business eBook manuals please refer to our <u>instructional videos</u>. For more information visit <u>www.grdc.com.au/farmingthebusiness</u>.



PESTFACTS 2/2015 Mites and Lucerne Flea Active in Most Regions

Mites and lucerne flea are widely active across a number of regions. For the first time this season we have received reports of blue oat and Bryobia mites.

Redlegged earth mites (*Halotydeus destructor*) (RLEM) are widely active across cropping districts. Blue oat mites (*Penthaleus spp.*) at moderate densities (4-10 mites per plant) have been found in early-sown wheat at **Halbury** in the Mid North.

Bryobia mites (*Bryobia spp.*) were identified from a paddock at **Kapinnie** on Lower Eyre Peninsula. Moderately high densities (5-15 per plant) were found on volunteer lupin plants within a paddock of emerging wheat. At this stage mites have not moved onto wheat seedlings and treatment is not necessary. In the South Australian Mallee, heavy infestations of *Bryobia* mite have been reported in canola from **Loxton**, **Paruna** and **Taldra**. The current mild temperatures remain favourable for *Bryobia* mites and we recommend continued vigilance.

Lucerne flea (*Sminthurus viridus*) were observed in emerging lentils at **Avon** in the Lower North and reported in high numbers throughout the Mid North. Lucerne fleas occur in hotspots in paddocks. Crops should be inspected frequently at and immediately following crop emergence when plants are most susceptible to damage. Pastures should be monitored at least fortnightly from autumn to spring, and more often in paddocks with previous lucerne flea problems.

http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/research/services/reports and newsletters/pestfacts newsletter/pestfacts issue 2, 2015/ mites_and_lucerne_flea_active_in_most_regions



The business case for carbon farming: improving your farm's sustainability

Looking to increase your business skills and knowledge?

Kondinin Group's FREE one-day carbon farming business awareness workshops are starting this June! Held in regional towns in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales, the workshops focus on how to build a business case for carbon farming under the Emissions Reduction Fund. On Monday the 22nd of June this workshop will be held in Kadina.

Who should attend?

- Farmers
- Landowners
- Agronomists
- Professional advisers to agricultural businesses

To register or more information, please contact:

T: 1800 677 761

F: (08) 6263 9177

E: register@kondinin.com.au



This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government

Small Scale Restoration in Intensive Agricultural Landscapes Supports more Specialised & Less Mobile Pollinator Species

Excerpt: Journal of Applied Ecology 2015, 52, 602–610: Claire Kremen1* and Leithen K. M'Gonigle1,2 1 Department of Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management, University of California, 130 Mulford Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-3114, USA; and 2 Department of Biological Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306, USA.

Full Article: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1365-2664.12418/epdf

Summary

Agriculture now constitutes 40–50% of terrestrial land use globally. By enhancing habitat suitability and connectivity, restoration within agricultural landscapes could have a major influence on biodiversity conservation. However, habitat management within intensive agricultural landscapes may primarily boost abundances of common, highly mobile generalists, rather than vulnerable or endangered species. We studied pollinator community response to small-scale habitat restoration in the intensively farmed Central Valley of California to determine whether restoration could also promote more specialized, less common and/or less mobile species.
 Composition of pollinator communities was assessed in five experimental and 10 control (unrestored) sites before and after restoration of native plant hedgerows over an 8-year period, using a before-after control-impact design.

3. We characterized bee and fly species based on functional response traits [floral specialization, habitat specialization, abundance, body size and sociality (bees only)] known to influence the response to habitat change.

4. We modelled how species occurrences changed with habitat restoration over time as modulated by their response traits.

5. We found that hedgerows not only significantly enhanced occurrences of native bee and syrphid fly species, but that as hedgerows matured, they had a greater positive effect on species that were more specialized in floral and nesting resources and smaller (less mobile).

6. Synthesis and applications. Unlike previous studies that suggest habitat restoration in agricultural landscapes only benefits mobile, generalist species, our results suggest that small-scale habitat restoration can promote species whose traits likely render them particularly vulnerable to habitat degradation. Thus, even within highly intensive agricultural landscapes, smallscale habitat restoration can be a conservation management tool. However, tailoring habitat enhancements to promote certain species or guilds may be critical for their success as a conservation intervention in agricultural landscapes.

Do you see the value in your remnant vegetation? Do you know what effect it is having, both positive and negative on your crops? If our Honey Bee populations get decimated by the Varroa Mite, as is happening across the globe, what will pollinate your crops? Would you be interested in a trial like this being undertaken in the Upper North?

GRDC Regional Panel Member - Positions Vacant

Are you passionate about the grains industry? Do you want to make a difference to farmer profitability? Now is your chance to help guide the industry's research and development activities.

Across Australia the GRDC has established 3 Regional Panels representing the principal cropping zones – northern, southern and western regions. Panel members work with the GRDC to develop and prioritise GRDC's research, development and extension investment portfolio at a local, regional and national level. Panel members are ambassadors for the GRDC, promoting its regional investments. The GRDC has recently revised the boundary between its Southern and Northern regions. The boundary now follows the New South Wales / Victoria border along the Murray River.

Applications are now open for positions on the Grains Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC's) Regional Panels effective 1 September 2015.

Please refer to the 2015 Regional Panel Member Application Information for details on how to apply.

Applications close on **Tuesday 9 June 2015**. If you have any questions regarding the role of the panel or the selection process please contact Stuart Kearns on 02 6166 4500 or <u>panels@grdc.com.au</u> - See more at: <u>http://www.grdc.com.au/PanelApplication#sthash.dGVmEk58.dpuf</u>

Ruminant Feedlotting - Evening Workshop

Dr Phil Taylor of Port Pirie Vet Clinic would like to invite you to attend an evening on the 11th of June at 7pm to meet and listen to Dr Paul Cusack primarily in relation to feedlotting (sheep and cattle).

Time and Date: 7.00 pm Thursday 11th June 2015

Location: Port Pirie Vet Clinic, 40 Main Road, Port Pirie SA 5540.

Dr Paul Cusack BSc. BVSc.[Hons] MVSt. MACVSc. PhD - Australian Livestock Production Services - Consultant cattle veterinarian, ruminant nutritionist, and beef producer with post-graduate training in the intensive and extensive ruminant industries. Currently director of Australian Livestock Production Services, owner/manager of cattle trading enterprise, and adjunct Associate Professor at Charles Sturt University. Australian Livestock Production Services throughout the eastern states and the Northern Territory of Australia.

For further information or to register please contact the Port Pirie Vet Clinic: <u>portpirievetclinic@hotmail.com</u> or phone 86331203

Wasting Glyphosate

Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative Insight #41 Excerpt

Most of us don't pour Grange Hermitage red into our lamb shank casserole. And many of us don't waste the good beer on the visitors (did you know that VB stands for visitors beer?). But most Australian grain growers are wasting the world's greatest herbicide on the least productive part of the farm.

A 'super group' of weed scientists and a leading grain grower formed at the recent Perth GRDC Crop Updates to discuss glyphosate resistance in a two hour long focus session. Surveying the audience provided some interesting results - 47% of them were wearing black underpants, and half had first-hand experience with glyphosate resistant weeds. Of those who had personally witnessed glyphosate resistance, half of the resistant weeds had been found on fencelines or road sides.

Are we destroying the world's greatest herbicide for the sake of a clean fence or road verge? Perhaps we should make a pact to never spray glyphosate on a fenceline ever again. Full Article: <u>http://ahri.uwa.edu.au/waste/</u>



Australian Wool Production Forecast April 2015

Excerpt from the Australian Wool Production Forecast Committee Summary

The Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee (AWPFC) has set its forecast production for the 2014/15 season at 341 million kilograms greasy for the 2014/15 season, the same as the estimate for the 2013/14 season. The Committee's first projection for 2015/16 has been set at 332 mkg, down by 2.7%.

There is expected to be a 2.8% reduction in the number of sheep shorn in the 2014/15 season. This decline is less than the 5.2% fall in the opening sheep numbers according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics' preliminary estimates released in January 2015. The fall in sheep shorn numbers in 2014/15 will be offset by an increase in average fleece weights across Australia due to good production conditions in several regions, including southern New South Wales, northern South Australia and regions in Victoria. Nationally, average fleece weights are expected to increase by 2.9% due to better than expected fleece weights in these regions.

Parameter	2013/14 Final Estimate	2014/15 Fourth forecast	Change y-o-y (%)	2015/16 Initial Projection	Change y-o-y (%)	
Opening Sheep Number (million)	75.5	71.6	-5.2%	69.1	-3.5%	
Sheep Numbers Shorn (million)	78.0	75.8	-2.8%	73.7	-2.9%	
Average Cut Per Head (kg)	4.37	4.49	2.9%	4.50	0.2%	
Shorn Wool Production (mkg greasy)	341	341	0.0%	332	-2.7%	

Table 1:	Summary of wool production estimates and forecasts for Australia
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Regionally, the Committee forecasts that wool production in 2014/15, compared with 2013/14, will fall the most in Queensland (-24.9%) and Western Australia (-7.4%), while production in Tasmania will remain steady. Wool production in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia is expected to increase by 2.2%, 1.9% and 7.9% respectively. Table 2 shows the current forecasts by state for 2014/15 in comparison to the 2013/14 estimate.

Table 2:	Summary of wool production estimates and forecasts for individual
	states

Shorn wool production (mkg greasy)	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	National
2013/14 Final Estimate	10.8	125.3	70.5	10.2	52.0	71.8	341
2014/15 April Forecast	8.1	128.1	71.9	10.2	56.1	66.4	341
Change y-o-y (%)	-24.8%	2.2%	1.9%	0.0%	7.9%	-7.4%	0.0%



http://www.woolmark.com/content/publicationPDFs/Forecast%20Report%202015%20April.pdf

Upcoming Events Calendar

<u>June 2015</u>

9 Pastoral Profit Webinar - AWI

11 Feedlotting Workshop, 7PM - Port Pirie Vet Clinic: <u>portpirievetclinic@hotmail.com</u> or P (08)86331203 **11-12** Upper North Sustainable Soils CAP Workshop, Carrieton. Kate Pearce, P (08) 8658 1086 **12** UNFS Production Zoning Workshop; 9-12PM Joe and Jess Kochs' Farm, Booleroo Centre.

12 UNFS Production Zoning Workshop; 1.30-4.30 Rob and Michelle Dennis' Farm, Port Germein **19-21** Campground Host Training, Mt Remarkable National Park - Mambray Creek Campground. Donna Ferschl, Natural Resources Northern and Yorke - (08) 8666 2014 or M 0447 201 347

22 The business case for carbon farming: improving your farm's sustainability Workshop, Kadina Kondinin Group 1800 677 761 www.carbonfarminginitiative.farmingahead.com.au

30 Nuffield Scholarship Applications close. www.nuffield.com.au

<u>July 2015</u>

Redesigning the Merino Workshop - Jamestown: Daniel Hammat 0439 347 362
 Hart Winter Walk <u>Sandy Kimber</u> 0427 423 154
 EPARF Member Day 2015: Innovation and Technology <u>Dot Brace</u> 8680 5104
 Mid North High Rainfall Group Winter Walk <u>Phil Holmes</u> 0428 587 862

<u>August 2015</u>

6 UNFS Annual Field Day and AGM 13 GRDC Research Update, Kadina. ORM <u>www.orm.com.au</u>

September 2015

2 Minnipa Agricultural Centre Annual Field Day – Celebrating 100 Years Leala Hoffmann, 8680 5104
10 UNFS Eastern Spring Crop Walk. Date for Western Spring Crop walk TBA.
13-16 Australian Barley Technical Symposium, Manly <u>www.abtsbarley.info/</u>
14-16 State Landcare Conference: Waikerie. <u>http://www.landcaresa.asn.au/node/102</u>
15 Hart Field Day <u>Sandy Kimber</u> 0427 423 154
29 Mid North High Rainfall Group Field Day <u>Phil Holmes</u> 0428 587 862

29/30/1 Yorke Peninsula Field Days - Paskeville

October 2015

20 Hart Spring Twilight Walk Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154

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Grain Vantage

GrainGrowers and Perten Instruments Australia have worked together to develop the next generation NIR instrument for protein, moisture and oil contentin whole grains and oilseeds.

The Grain Vantage instrument provides grain producers with alightweight and highly portable NIR designed for Australian conditions. Weighing 7kg the unit is capable of operating from 240v, 12v or internal battery providing maximum flexibility whether used from the header seat, chaser binor at a silo.

The design matches Australian conditions with rugged optics and an automated dust shutter to ensure reliable, low maintenance operations.

GrainVantage units are delivered fully calibrated against Nationa IM easurement Institute (NMI) certified IM 9500 Analyser ensuring accurate data.

Grain Vantage units are competitively priced at \$9950 exI GST, which includes a 12 month warranty. Product delivery and additional sample cells are not included in this price.



COMMUNITY PROMOTION

As an additional community benefit GrainGrowers is providing the opportunity for local grower and production groups to benefit from a rebate on each unit sold. On purchasing a GrainVantage unit growers may nominate their local grower or production group to benefit from a \$500 cash rebate paid direct to the nominated group.

To be eligible for the rebate purchasers must be referred to GrainGrowers by the nominated group. GrainGrowers will then contact the prospective purchaser and on completion of the purchase automatically make payment to the group. This offer is open to all grain producers regardless of membership with GrainGrowers.

For further details email enquiry@graingrowers.com.au or contact your local GrainGrowers Field Officer (details at www.graingrowers.com.au/about/ourteam).



The Hammat Family invites you to the workshop REDESIGNING THE MERINO

Jamestown Football Clubrooms Friday 3rd July 2015 Registrations 8.30am Workshop 9am to 4pm

Presenter: Dr Jim Watts

Topics include:

- Breeding advanced wools on plain bodied Merinos
- Optimizing genetic expression of rams
- Improving lamb survival and fertility
- Improving genetic muscle and fat

Sheep displays include:

- Young rams with breeding values (ASBV's)
- Dams and sires

Cost: \$50 including morning tea & lunch

RSVP: by Mon 29th June Bookings essential Daniel Hammat Ph: 0439 347 362 E: daniel@baderloo.com.au The Yacka Moorundie Landcare Group proudly presents:

Towards Sustainability SA WORKSHOP

"This event is a must for any person with an interest in or around strengthening agriculture, the environment and communities."

This 2 day event brings together the inspiring Catherine Marriott and Julia Telford presenting the Influential Women workshop with a land care focus. The aim is to install confidence, knowledge, leadership, business skills and teamwork through interactive activities.

Learn how to communicate effectively within your business, community or industry and get your message across in an influential way. Learn how to better manage our natural resources, communicate the message of land care and present in a way that everyone can contribute towards.

Catherine and Julia are passionate advocates for rural Australia, hosting many inspirational workshops nationally and internationally.

When: Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th June 2015 Where: Clare Country Club, White Hut Road, Clare.

Time: Day One: Registration 9.00am. Workshop: 9.30am-4.30pm. Day Two: 8.00am-4.30pm. Includes lunch, tea and refreshments.

Cost: \$125 per person



Towards Sustainability SA capacity building landowners & volunteers in land management

Bookings and enquiries to Natalie Sommerville on 0427 507 132 or email windjara@bigpond.com Limited spots available.

Visit www.yackamoorundielandcaregroup.com/coming-events









Government of South Australia South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board





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