2014 Crop Program

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Current Situation

• - No sub soil moisture
• - Long term weather forecasts unfavorable
• + Forward grain prices are good, relative to historical levels and input costs
• Sowing program will take 30-35 days
• Dry sowing in most years has proven to be effective in maximizing yield
• Ideally crop should be sown by 20\textsuperscript{th} May
Sowing Strategy

• Start dry sowing second week April
  » 1. Wedgetail wheat
  » 2. Garnet canola mid April
  » 3. Gregory, Lancer wheat last week April
  » 4. Suntop, first week May
  » 5. Spitfire, 2nd week May
  » 6. Barley 3rd week May (hopefully knockdown can be used)

  » Review weather and sow RR Canola if strong front develops. Seed is too expensive to risk failure on.
  » Risk of failure lessens as it gets cooler.

  » Disclaimer: I had planned to have harvest finished by 20th Dec in 2010
Phosphorus, Zinc

- Soil Colwell 45-55ppm
- Apply 3 kg per ton (wheat), for 3T/Ha, or 45kg MAP

- Severe Zinc deficiency observed in 2013
- 1 kg Ha Zn will be applied with fert in 2014
Nitrogen

- Only in starter fertilizer
- Canola early topdressed
- Wheat try to wait until 1\textsuperscript{st} node.
- Flexible to band or spread if wet sowing
Topdress N

- Canola less forgiving for N setbacks, but less likely to be hayed off. Must be topdressed before flowering.
- Use moisture probes and rainfall to determine rate.
- Normally 2 applications. Mostly at least 1 application.
- Ok if wheat looks N deficient- it can recover.
Value of moisture probes

• One moisture probe at Beckom. FarmLink runs full yield prophet program on
• 2 probes at Ariah Park
• Used to determine topdress rates for first topdressing
• Determine whether or not 2nd topdressing
• Useful in predicting whether crops have enough moisture to finish
pH, Lime and Sulfur

- Soils have been limed to bring pH back to mid/low 5
- Current program is to mix and spread 400kg Gypsum and 1-1.25 T/Ha lime
- This will provide enough Sulfur for 3 canola crops
- This will maintain pH for 10 years
Future Practice Changes

- Herbicide resistance increasing problem
- Use of green manures. Vetch has proven ok to graze
- Continue 3 – 4 year Lucerne pasture
- Concentrating and burning chaff rows is effective but does concentrate nutrients
- Variable rate P could provide cost savings
Machinery & Tramlines

• 13.33 and 40m system replaced in 2014 with 20m and 40m (3:1 with 2:1)
• Wheel runs will be sown
• Header will no longer fit system