

Management Practice

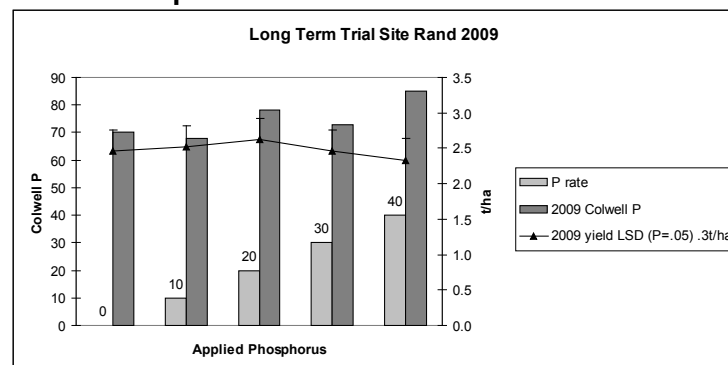
Management Practice

➔ 223

Canola

In 2009 canola was sown into wheat stubble on the long term high soil phosphorus IPF trial site at Angus McNeil's property at Rand in the southern Riverina.

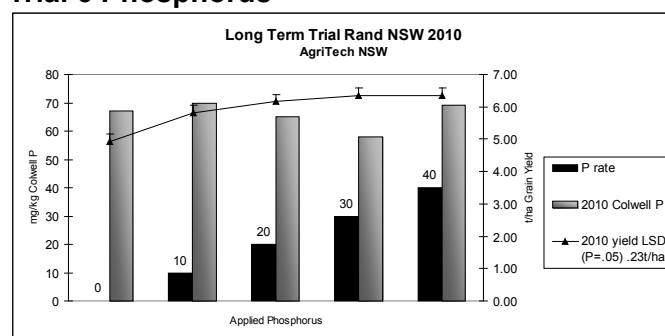
Trial 5 Phosphorus



In trial five there was no significant response to phosphorus up to 40kg/ha/P over the nil phosphorus control.

In 2010 wheat was sown into canola stubble on the long term high soil phosphorus IPF trial site at Angus McNeil's property at Rand in the southern Riverina.

Trial 6 Phosphorus



In trial six there was a significant response to 10kg/ha/P over the control and a significant response to 20kg/ha/P over 10kg/ha/P and the nil phosphorus control. There was no significant response to 40kg/ha/P over 30kg/ha/P and 20kg/ha/P

Conclusion: There may be benefits gained by including albus lupins in the cropping sequence to enhance the uptake of phosphorus in the following wheat crop. The potential for any economic benefit needs to be considered. Albus lupins do not appear to respond to the addition of phosphorus. The significant responses in wheat to applied phosphorus rates after canola in high phosphorus soils is an area for future research.

References

"Nitrogen benefits of lupins, field pea, and chickpea to wheat production in south-eastern Australia" E. L. Armstrong, D. P. Heenan, J. S. Pate and M. J. Unkovich *Australian Journal of Agricultural Research* 48(1) 39 - 48 Full text doi:10.1071/A96054 © CSIRO 1997

"Phosphorus uptake by grain legumes and subsequently grown wheat at different levels of residual phosphorus fertiliser" M. Nuruzzaman, Hans Lambers, Michael D. A. Bolland, Erik J. Veneklaas *Australian Journal of Agricultural Research* 56(10) 1041-104 doi:10.1071/AR05060 Published: 25 October 2005

Contact details

Jim Laycock
Incitec Pivot Fertilisers
0427006047
jim.laycock@incitecpivot.com.au

IMPROVING FARMER CAPACITY TO MANAGE PROFITABILITY AND RISK

Geoff Thomas

Manager, Low Rainfall Collaboration Project.

Farmers have been seeking guidance for years on how they can better fit the various components of their farm systems together to improve overall profitability and management of risk.

In the past a lot of attention has been placed on agronomic considerations and hence a concentration on varieties, rates, seeding dates, row spacing and similar types of work. Similarly with livestock there has been work on topics such as grazing cereals and other crops as well as animal genetics. While all of this work has a place, farmers are now seeking more advice on how to fit the various technologies together to best effect on their business. This no longer simply means greater production - profitability, reduced inputs and management of risk are increasingly recognised by farmers as major factors affecting the performance of their businesses and the resilience to tough times.

Since each farmer's business is different, a one size fits all approach is not appropriate. Rather, what is required are simple budgets and guidelines which allow farmers and their advisers to feed in their own figures and ask the "what if" questions appropriate to them. These budgets inform their decisions, yet do not make them for the farmer or adviser. These budgeting tools are available but are not widely used.

Demand for practical farm business management skills training is now coming from farmers, groups and consultants and there is a need to respond quickly to meet this demand.

One response by GRDC has been the Profitability/Risk Management Project conducted through the Low rainfall Collaboration Project using a whole farm, case study approach which brings together past experiences and activities and involves farm business experts, consultants and farmers. This builds on some excellent pioneering work done on EP in recent years and the results of a pilot project run with Birchip Cropping Group.

The aim of the project is to evaluate adaptive farm systems and to develop simple approaches which farmers can use to help their decision making,

especially in the face of more uncertain seasons and profit margins.

Understanding the sensitivity of changes to farm systems and investments with volatile seasons is essential to achieving profitability and managing risk. Traditional farm business analysis techniques often do not pick up this risk whereas this project uses decile break even points to assess sustainability of the business in difficult times.

The project will roll out on Eyre Peninsula in 2011 and expanded through 2012 and 2013 by establishing and working with groups as indicated above and building on previous work. There is also an important additional component with consultants/accountants working with groups of newer/younger farmers to provide an introduction to farm finance and risk management.