

Gross Margin Analysis for Wheat and Barley

Aim: To compare returns for wheat and barley in their different segregations to determine the most profitable return for farmers.

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Company: Elders Limited



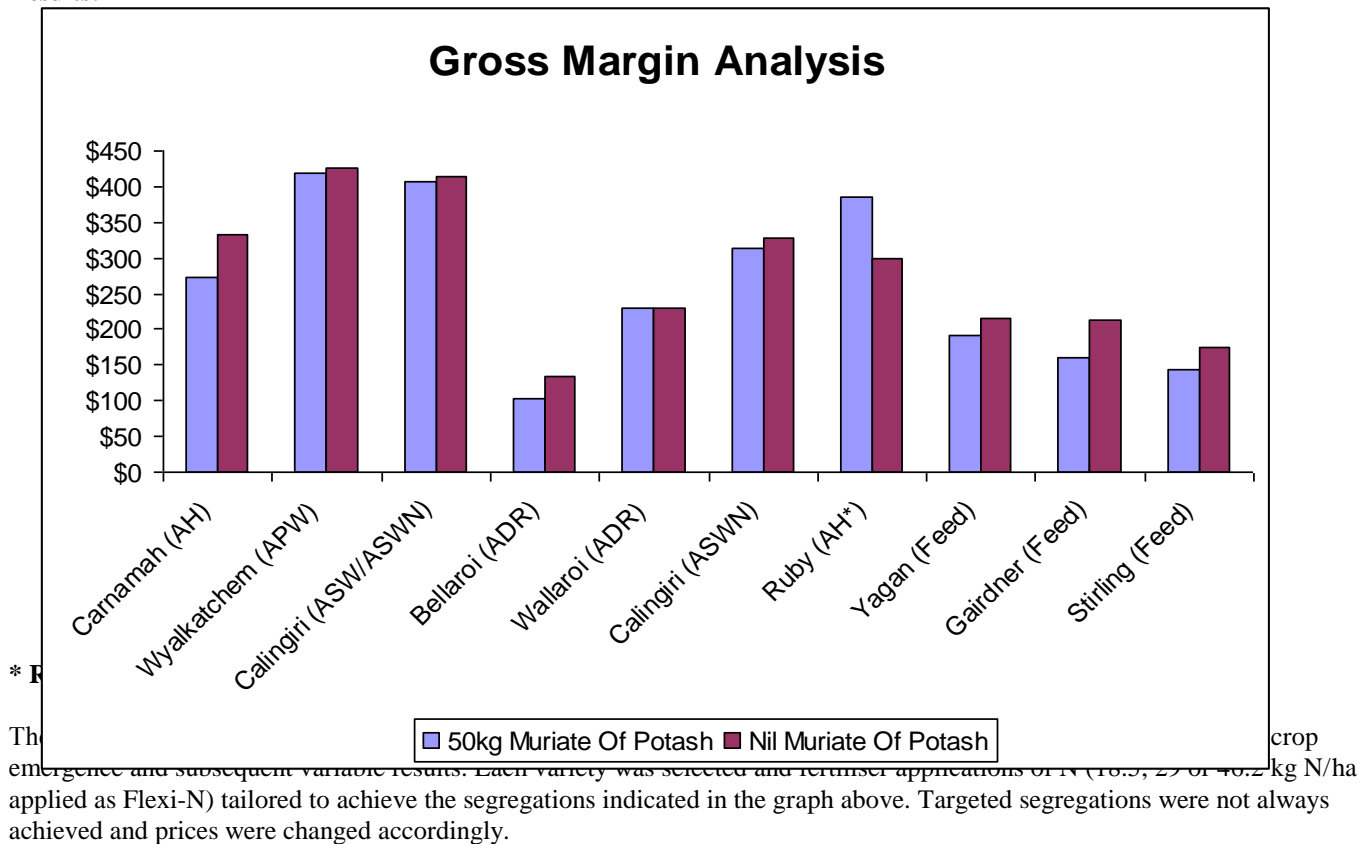
Farmer: Keith Carter
Location: Liebe Group Main Trial Site, Jibberding Hall Rd, Wubin

Background: Every season growers make a choice on the varieties of wheat and barley that will be sown. Generally this is based on past performances of their own crops and neighbouring crops. In an area that predominantly produces noodle grade there is a lot of interest in expansion into production of other segregations, into hard and durum varieties of wheat and feed varieties of barley. Seed companies and end users (AWB and the Grain Pool of WA) have indicated that there can be a substantial premium for adopting such varieties and as such growers are requesting more information. With growers in this area comfortable with their current practices, there is limited scope for testing these varieties and premium grades. This trial attempts to determine whether they would have been successful in the 2003 season.

Trial Details:

Plot size and replication	1.6 x 10m with 2m centres, 3 reps in a Randomised Complete Block Design
Soil type	Sand over gravel
Sowing date	29 th May, 2003
Conditions at sowing	Poor with a drying seedbed
Machinery	Min-till small plot cone seeder – Knife points on chisel tynes at 20cm row spacing with press wheels
Seeding rate	Wheat @ 80 kg/ha, barley @ 65 kg/ha
Fertiliser	Various K and N, but 100 kg/ha Agstar TE
Herbicides and Insecticides	May 21 st 2003: Knockdown 1– Roundup dry (680gai) 1.3 kg/ha, Ester 80 300 mL/ha, Hammer 40 g/ha Hasten 1% May 29 th 2003: Knockdown 2 – Roundup Max 2 L/ha, Ester 80 300 mL/ha, Hasten 0.5% July 23 rd 2003: PO1 – Hoegrass 1.5L, Barracuda 750mL, BS1000 0.2% August 26 th 2003: PO2- Hoegrass 350mL, Achieve 250g, 0.75% Supercharge
Paddock History	2002 = Failed lupins 2001 = Wheat, 2000 = Pasture

Results:



Summary:

- The APW wheat Wyalkatchem had the highest gross margin
- Malt barley varieties had over 20% screenings and hence went feed. Yagan barley had under 10% screenings and yielded higher than the malt varieties.
- The Durum wheats reached the Durum grade, but did not yield well
- Post-em application of Muriate of Potash had no effect on yield or quality
- Yield is still the major target, however quality is important and in the future there may be more pressure put on farmers by the end-users (ie marketers and buyers) to get exactly what they want

Technically reviewed by: Bevan Addison