

# Ploughing Stubble Demonstration

**Aim:** To test the effect of ploughing in stubble prior to seeding.

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**Company:** Liebe Group

**Farmer:** Colin McGregor  
**Location:** East Maya



**Background:** Colin has been implementing green manuring and stubble ploughing in his program in a u Working together in Agriculture the level of organic matter in his soil. This demonstration aimed to quantify the potential yield benefits of ploughing in stubbles.

## Trial Details:

Plot size and replication	12m x 400m, 6 replicates
Soil type	Two soil types were used, Sandy loam and red loam
Sowing date	26 <sup>th</sup> May
Ploughing	25 <sup>th</sup> February
Conditions at sowing	Some soil moisture
Machinery	Ploughing: Ezee-on disc's Seeding: Concord bar 12 inch spacings (Anderson openers)
Seeding rate	45 kg/ha
Fertiliser	At sowing: 50 kg DAPS, 25 kg/Urea with seed. Post sowing: 50 kg/ha Muriate of Potash on sandy soil
Herbicides and Insecticides	24 <sup>th</sup> February: Summer weeds sprayed 15 <sup>th</sup> July: 500 mL MCPA LVE 4g Glean 5 <sup>th</sup> September: 145 mL Folicur
Paddock History	2002 = Failed Wheat, 2001 = Wheat, 2000 = Pasture

## Results:

Treatment	Yield t/ha	Protein %	Weight kg/hl	Screenings %	Return \$/ha
<b>Sandy Plough</b>	2.55	14.60	74.74	6.36	GP-526
<b>Sandy Not Plough</b>	2.39	14.30	75.74	8.02	GP-483
<b>Loamy Plough</b>	2.19	16.30	74.92	8.08	GP-443
<b>Loamy Not Plough</b>	2.12	17.90	74.52	9.17	Feed- 392

## Summary:

- This demonstration suggests that there is a trend towards higher yields as a result of ploughing stubbles.
- As this demonstration wasn't statistically valid, it is hard to say if the yield increase was significant. More detailed studies need to be done to gain a better understanding of the implications for ploughing stubbles.
- Screenings were lower in the ploughed treatments, once again it is hard to say if this effect was significant.
- The cost of ploughing stubbles is relatively low (approximately \$10/ha) and it may be an effective way to increase soil organic matter.