



ANNA BINNA update

Harvest in full swing

It was a long wait for the harvest after the exceptional winter rains and the cool spring conditions. We've been into it for nearly four weeks and so far the crops have been excellent.

We kicked off with windrowing some compass barley in late October. The windrowing process speeds up the ripening of the crop and has been even more important this year as there is a lot of green regrowth in the barley, which would otherwise have taken weeks to ripen. We had already lost some barley on the ground as the crops have getting belted by endless cold fronts and 90km winds. Danny and Tim do most of the windrowing and we are well set up for 24-hour operation. This year, cool nights and a few heavy dews have been giving plenty of time for extra rest and some maintenance on the machine.

The barley harvest started in early November and we managed to harvest around 2000 acres in the first ten days in very cool, showery weather. We were really happy with the barley crops and some paddock yields were at the best levels we have ever seen.

The lentils took weeks to ripen, and we left the barley and moved into the lentils last week. It's been tough going as the plants are still full of sap, but the lentil seeds are ripe. We've also had a huge infestation of conical snails, so we've had to get a lot of the lentils cleaned to remove the snails. Unfortunately, we also received 12mm of rainfall and plenty of wind, which rattled a few lentil pods off but didn't damage the grain quality. We've had a good run for the last week and we are now about halfway through the lentils. We had another cold front



Tim windrowing Spartacus barley



Simon harvesting windrowed Spartacus barley



Marco & Simon harvesting lentils

rainfall through the lentils. We had another cold front come through recently and received another 4mm of rain. Hopefully it will dry out soon.

Staffing

We are very fortunate to have Marco Luciani as a chief operator. He has been with us for nearly 20 years. During the harvest, Marco operates a New Holland header and oversees all of the maintenance on the machines. Marco's brother Danny has been with us for nearly as long and has been permanent for six years. Danny drives a Cestari chaser bin and he oversees all the maintenance on the grain handling gear. Thomas Smart drives the other Cestari during his university holidays.

Derek Sansbury drives our Western Star B double and has been with us for 6 years. Derek oversees all of the operations and maintenance of the trucks. Clifton Power is taking holidays to drive the other B double outfit. Tim Rowe helps out once the windrowing is finished. My father John helps shift bins

around with Ben Rigney. Ben joined us this year as a trainee and we plan to train him to get his semi license after harvest. Simon May has also been a great addition to our team. He oversees many areas of the harvest operation whilst operating a chaser bin or a header.

Weather & fire risk

Since the Pinery fires, there has been an increased focus on fire safety during the harvest period. Recently, there was a series of grower workshops across the state and Anna Binna was invited to present on our fire safety plan and our experience in the safe harvesting of lentils. The workshops were very successful in educating growers to better manage the risk of bush fires. We have just purchased a mobile weather station which we have in the paddock to give live updates of the fire danger index directly to our phones. It's great to use the latest technology to increase the safety of our operation. We also provide full access to this information to the CFS & local farming community.

That's about all the news from the Anna Binna team. With cereal prices at 10-year lows, the extra crop yields have been welcome. Hopefully the weather will remain kind and we can get everything in.

Regards,
Ben Wundersitz

PS -- Want to share our news? [Click here to forward this email to a friend.](#)



Clifton Power & Derek Sansbury -- morning coffee and off to the silos



Tim – chief night shift operator and all-round quiet achiever



Marco – operator of NHI, driving a header



Marco shifting the mobile weather station



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Maitland, SA 5573
Australia

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