



ANNA BINNA update

October Update

The weather continues to be our biggest focus as South Australia has been smashed by a series of the most ferocious cold fronts we've ever seen. We received about 75 mm (3 inches) of rain the week before last, which takes our annual rainfall at Anna Binna to 650 mm (26 inches). This is now the wettest year ever for the period to the end of September.

During the storms the crops endured 3 days of 70 to 80 kph winds with gusts up to 125 kph, and we received torrential rain as the thunderstorms rolled through. All of the crops have a definite lean and some of the cereal crops are lying over. Considering the horrendous battering the crops have taken, we are really happy with how the crop has survived.

The last few months have been chaotic keeping both fertiliser and fungicide up to the crop. All of our cereal crops require nitrogen fertiliser to reach their full yield potential and they have now received three applications during the growing season. The cereal and lentils were treated twice and we are on round three of the lentils, so Marco and Danny have been busy keeping up with the workload between rainfall events. A lot of the later applications of fungicide and fertiliser for our wheat crops were applied by aircraft to prevent damage to the crop in the wet conditions.

At our home property, we have now sprayed out 500



Compass barley flattened after the rain



Compass barley, heads full



Marco & Danny treating lentils with fungicide

acres of waterlogged barley with Roundup. This again had to be by aircraft and Danny Allen did a superb job in treating only the waterlogged areas, which is not an easy task at 220 kph. With the wet weather, the harvest will now be delayed and we will start windrowing barley in a few weeks.



Loading an air tractor with urea near Price

We are just finishing off a few final maintenance jobs on our harvest gear and everything should be good to go. Across the State, this season is shaping up to be potentially one of the largest grain harvests ever. Unfortunately, the prices of wheat and barley have plummeted to their lowest levels in 10 years as global stocks have increased due to massive crops in Russia, the Ukraine and Canada. I am hopeful the crops will yield well and we can still achieve a good result.



New crop dividers to minimise wheel track damage

Unfortunately, the western coast of the Peninsula was badly damaged during last week's storms. There has been serious erosion right down the coast and the jetties at both Port Victoria and Port Rickaby were badly damaged. Let's hope we have seen the last of this record-breaking weather and we can settle in to the summer pattern for harvest followed by some well-earned time off.



Port Rickaby jetty destroyed in wild weather

Fat Farmers Health Initiative

On a lighter note, our Fat Farmers Rural Health Initiative is going well. This year, we had 120 farmers and their families from right across the State participate in the City-Bay Fun Run event. It's good to keep fit and give a bit back by helping others in rural communities.



Participants in the City-Bay Fun Run event

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support of Anna Binna.

Regards,
Ben Wundersitz