

June Seeding Update

After 5 weeks, we have finished our 2017 seeding program – and we're still waiting for rain. We've only received 7 to 15 mm of rain for May, which is about 80% down on average.

Many areas of South Australia received good opening rains, but the central Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula are still waiting. A large high pressure system has been dominating our weather recently, but it's slowly heading east, which should hopefully allow some cold fronts to roll through.

Most of our early-sown crops have emerged and will require follow-up rainfall in the next few weeks. The latersown crops have emerged in some areas, but other areas are too dry to germinate the seed.

Thanks to our hardworking team

Many thanks to our dedicated team of staff for their huge effort in one of the most challenging seeding periods we have ever experienced. Sowing through huge stubble loads was often quite frustrating, as it required some paddocks to be sown in a different direction or extra shifts on the slasher.

The huge populations of mice in the paddocks have been higher than we expected and have required regular monitoring. Many paddocks have needed multiple applications of bait to keep the numbers down and prevent the mice from eating the seed. The high demand for mice bait has seen most suppliers run out.

Bring on the rain

Some farmers have chosen to delay seeding until it rains. Others have pulled up halfway through and some (like



Trojan wheat sown in to lentil stubble



Huge effort with Danny on day shift & Tim on night shift - 750 engine hours in 5 weeks & still smiling!



Wazza has been busy baiting mice, while Simon helps keep everything running



us) have forged ahead and finished. No matter what, it's a nervous time for us all with the long-term forecast indicating a high probability of a "drier than average" spring. Hopefully we'll get some rain on the roof soon!

As always, we thank you for your support and your trust in our team to manage your properties.

Regards, Ben Wundersitz Marco & Geoff on the sprayer and water truck



My father, John, 75 years old and still farming. His Hilux often appears at 6am, ready to help out.



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