



ANNA BINNA update

Dry July Makes for a Challenging Season

The weather

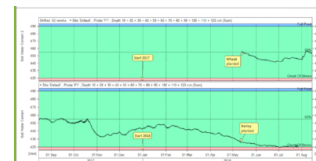
In South Australia, our weather pattern continues to be dominated by blocking high pressure systems with a lot of the rainfall being pushed to the south. Locally, our situation is not as desperate as many other areas in SA. We are certainly a lot better off than areas in the eastern states as many farmers are enduring catastrophic drought conditions. So far, Maitland has received 175mm (7 inches) which is 50% of its average annual rain. The east coast of the peninsula is 70% below average, having received only 85mm at Price and 100mm (4 inches) at Ardrossan.



Wheat at Point Pearce hanging in there with 120 mm of rain

The crop

All of the crop is under moisture stress, with some areas in paddocks still waiting for enough rain to germinate. We have been getting some frost events, which further stresses the crop and slows its growth. In these conditions, we try and anticipate where the season is likely to go. All of the cereal crop requires nitrogen to reach its full yield potential, but too much will create excess growth, and too little will limit the crop yield. It's likely we have lost at least 30% of our



Soil moisture data from Ardrossan

potential yield in the coastal areas and 15% inland at Maitland. We will aim to match the fertiliser to the potential crop. Ultimately, this will depend on how much rain we get and how mild the weather is in spring. Generally, we study long-range weather forecasts, combine this with information from soil moisture probes and add in a bit of gut feel. With small applications of fertiliser every four weeks, we aim to match the potential crop yield.

Our weed control program is progressing well and the dry conditions will reduce the likelihood of disease in the crop, requiring less fungicide.

Our commodities

Earlier in the year, the market for our cereal grain was down to around \$250 a tonne due to a lack of demand with high world stocks. Generally, we don't see a lot of domestic demand in South Australia as we simply don't have a large enough population to consume the state's production. With much of Australia now suffering drought conditions, the pricing of both wheat and barley has risen to over \$300 a tonne with domestic demand coming from the east coast. There has been wheat moving to Brisbane from Crystal Brook by rail and there has been domestic shipping of wheat and barley from local ports up to the east coast of Australia. We made some forward sales with our wheat and barley earlier in the year, but unfortunately now we have our own production concerns and can't sell anymore.

The lentil market is very quiet with the price at \$450 per tonne. There are massive global stocks of lentils with 800,000 tonnes of lentils still in storage between Canada and Australia. This year's Canadian lentil crop is progressing well and will be harvested in September. This is likely to increase world stocks even if the Australian lentil crop is reduced.

Staffing

Last week, nine of our staff members attended first aid training locally at Regional Skills Training, where we were trained by an experienced paramedic. Everyone really enjoyed the day and learned a lot.



Soil moisture probes & weather stations providing valuable data



Canola at Maitland looking good with no waterlogging



Danny spreading Grenade wheat near Ardrossan



Lentils at Price struggling with 85 mm of rain

We were trained in the use of a defibrillator and were all very impressed with the benefits of having one if required. At our staff meeting, we decided to look into purchasing one to be stored in the service truck during busy periods and to be stored in the workshop out of season.

Harvest preparation

With a lot of windy weather, we have been spending plenty of time in the workshop. Our service schedule is as well on track as we could be with harvesting in just over eight weeks.

Fat Farmers – rural health initiative

As you may be aware, I kicked off the Fat Farmers rural health initiative five years ago with a group of farmers in our local gym. We now have six groups of farmers throughout the state running fitness sessions in their local areas. We also look to support local family-friendly cycling and running events. We have appointed Sally Fisher as our Executive Officer and we are rolling out a sponsorship package. Our aim is to grow the numbers of rural people involved and promote a healthy lifestyle in rural South Australia. Our major event is the City to Bay in Adelaide in September. Last year, we had over 130 participants and we all met up afterwards for lunch. The program has delivered life-changing outcomes to many of the participants involved and we hope we can expand it in the future.

As always, we thank you for your support and we will keep you up-to-date on the crops and harvest coming soon.

Regards,
Ben Wundersitz



Marco & Tim bandaging a head wound at first aid training



Yorke Fat Farmers City to Bay 2017



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