

The Farming Business – 1992-2009

Hugh Ball

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The Ball Family commenced farming at 'Gorian' Burren Junction NSW in 1992; this country was purchased in 1988 and developed from grazing to farming in 1992. Previously the family lived in the Hunter Valley running a crossbred cattle enterprise. In 2002 'Oodnadatta' a farming enterprise at, Moree NSW was purchased.

A total of 15,000 hect of arable cropping land is in the family business. A further 20,000 hect is under crop management and contract farming for external clients as Hugh's business, Ball Farm Management. This business is expanding rapidly.

The farming system is built around Zero till controlled traffic implemented in 1992. The system comprises of permanent 3 metre wheel centres using 12 meter planting and 36 – 48 meter Boom sprays. Machinery and labour efficiencies are challenges. Hugh and Duncan run the farming business with a strong emphasis on capable core staff and external expertise (agronomy, marketing and business management).A family Advisory board has been established.

Hugh is a director and shareholder in MAX Grains, a grain marketing business in Brisbane. A strong focus is to grow the business and align with like minded businesses too better achieve viable economical and sustainable results in what is a challenging but dynamic agricultural climate.