

Driving Straight – Get Over It!

Hugh Ball, NSW

PROPERTIES

“Gorian” 6000 hectares, “Oodnadatta” 5000 hectares, north-west NSW.

SOIL TYPE

Black self-mulching.

CROPS

Predominantly cereal, with rotations of pulse and summer crops, i.e. Prime hard wheat, durum, chickpeas, fabas beans, canola, sunflower, sorghum, mungbeans, dryland cotton.

Precision farming controlled traffic enterprise.

RAINFALL

“Gorian” 500mm, “Oodnadatta” 650mm

- Grid farming, 5000 hectare modules
- Machine module width 12m
- Machine axle width 3m
- Use BEELINE auto steer 2cm GPS Guidance System, used for band spraying and inter-row fertilization
- Properties marked off one line, 12m internal roads, 24m main roads
- 2 x 250 HP F.W.A. tractors 36m booms
- Industry standard water truck and batching tanks
- 12m Janke, parallelogram no till planter on 333mm spacing cereal, 1m multiples summer
- 12m Vacuum planter on 1m spacing

CSIRO Sydney University, Department of Agriculture conducts various summer and winter trials each year. In search of economic equilibrium where minimal inputs achieve max return sustainably. In order to achieve this, we are searching for the ideal seeding rate, horsepower, row spacing, implement width, labour unit.

\$ / Kg / ha / cm of soil moisture.

Constantly reviewing capital invests per hectare within the module.

VITAL INGREDIENTS

1. Agronomy - on time / competent
2. Marketing - attitude to risk and opportunity i.e. variety of crops and planting windows
3. Management - up to speed, included in decision-making process

Timing of recommendations critical. We pride ourselves on gaining efficiencies and view our business as a whole farming system aimed at more efficient use and absorption of rainfall, hence increasing planting opportunities and cropping frequency in an environmentally sustainable manner.