

Wheat: Long Fallow

Central Zone - East

Winter 2009

CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:

Operation	Month	Machinery			Inputs			Total Cost \$/ha
		hrs /ha	Cost \$/hour	Total \$/ha	Rate/ha	Cost \$	Total \$/ha	
Weed control eg: glyphosate 450 g/litre	Aug	0.05	43.36	\$2.34	1.20 L	\$7.38/L	\$8.85	\$11.19
Weed control eg: 2,4-D amine 300g/L (Surpass®)	Aug	with above			1.20 L	\$6.22/L	\$7.46	\$7.46
Cultivation	Nov/Dec	0.17	47.03	\$8.05				\$8.05
Weed control eg: glyphosate 450 g/litre	Feb	0.05	43.36	\$2.34	1.20 L	\$7.38/L	\$8.85	\$11.19
Weed control eg: Garlon®	Feb	with above			0.12 L	\$29.93/L	\$3.59	\$3.59
Weed control eg: glyphosate 450 g/litre	Apr/May	0.05	43.36	\$2.34	0.80 L	\$7.38/L	\$5.90	\$8.24
Sowing	May	0.17	64.36	\$10.82	50 kg	\$0.92/kg	\$45.90	\$56.72
Starter fertiliser eg: MAP	May	with above			100 kg	\$0.98/kg	\$97.50	\$97.50
Weed control eg: Chlorsulfuron (Glean®)	Jun	0.05	43.36	\$2.34	20 g	\$0.12/g	\$2.35	\$4.69
Weed control eg: MCPA LVE®	Jul	0.05	43.36	\$2.34	0.70 L	\$9.81/L	\$6.86	\$9.20
Contract-harvest	Nov	contract		\$60.00				\$60.00
Crop Levies					1.02%	of on-farm value		\$9.67
Crop Insurance					2.05%	of on-farm value		\$19.44

*** Input and crop prices are correct at the time of writing (March 2009). Market uncertainty makes estimation of future pricing impractical.

NOTES:

Long fallow:

- Country coming out of lucerne or long-term pasture is usually fallowed.
- Fallow is usually commenced in August- September to conserve moisture and prevent annual weeds setting seed. Preferably a spray is substituted for the opening cultivation, allowing extended grazing time, weed control and moisture conservation.
- For Gross Margin comparisons NOTE: in a long fallow situation winter cropping cannot be carried out annually.

Sowing time:

- Sowing at the optimum time for the selected variety is critical for maximum yield.
- There is a 4 to 7% yield loss for every week delay past the optimum sowing time.
- Seed price used above is for purchased seed; if using retained seed adjust budget accordingly.

Weed control:

- Weed control, if required, should be implemented either pre-emergent or within 4 to 6 weeks after sowing to limit yield loss.
- Rotate herbicide groups and use other non-chemical methods to avoid herbicide resistance developing.

Fertiliser:

- Good nitrogen fertility is required to produce high yields and high protein.
- To achieve PH quality, wheat must have a protein level of 13% or higher.
- Adequate phosphorus is essential before applying extra nitrogen fertiliser.
- Higher protein wheat is likely to be grown on fallow country with a good legume history.

Wheat price:

Machinery:

- A tractor with 149 kW (200 HP) pto power and 177 kW (240 HP) engine power is assumed.
- Contract-harvesting does not include the cost of fuel.

Labour:

- The labour required for machinery operations is 0.55 hrs/ha
- Using a labour cost of \$14/hr, an additional \$7.65 can be deducted from the total gross margin budget

Important notes:

- These gross margins are only a guide. They do not include overhead costs.
- **Use your own figures and price assumptions to estimate your own gross margin.**
- Use of a particular brand name does not imply a recommendation of that brand by NSW Department of Primary Industries.