



# Flood Irrigated Wheat Central Zone

## Winter 2010

### CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:

Operation	Month	Machinery			Inputs			Total Cost \$/ha
		hrs /ha	Cost \$/hour	Total \$/ha	rate/ha	Cost \$	Total \$/ha	
Off-set	Jan	0.35	50.78	<b>\$17.63</b>				<b>\$17.63</b>
Chisel Plough	Feb	0.22	44.83	<b>\$10.01</b>				<b>\$10.01</b>
Land plane	Mar	0.05	43.36	<b>\$2.34</b>				<b>\$2.34</b>
Light Cultivation	Mar	0.17	47.03	<b>\$8.05</b>				<b>\$8.05</b>
Pre-irrigation	Mar				1.50 ML	\$19.74/ML	<b>\$29.61</b>	<b>\$29.61</b>
Pre-sowing weed control eg: Glyphosate 540 (eg: Roundup PowerMax®)	Apr	0.05	43.36	<b>\$2.34</b>	1.00 L	\$7.62/L	<b>\$7.62</b>	<b>\$9.96</b>
Nitrogen fertiliser eg: Urea	May	0.17	47.03	<b>\$8.05</b>	217 kg	\$0.59/kg	<b>\$128.03</b>	<b>\$136.08</b>
Sowing	May	0.17	64.36	<b>\$10.82</b>	90 kg	\$0.92/kg	<b>\$82.62</b>	<b>\$93.44</b>
Starter fertiliser eg: MAP	May	with above			100 kg	\$0.88/kg	<b>\$88.00</b>	<b>\$88.00</b>
Weed control eg: Chlorsulfuron (Glean)	May	0.05	43.36	<b>\$2.34</b>	15 g	\$0.12 /g	<b>\$1.76</b>	<b>\$4.10</b>
Grass weed control eg: Diclofop-methyl + Fenoxaprop (Tristar®)	Jun	0.05	43.36	<b>\$2.34</b>	1.50 L	\$20.00/L	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$32.34</b>
Irrigation	Aug/Sept				1.25 ML	\$19.74/ML	<b>\$24.68</b>	<b>\$24.68</b>
Irrigation	Sept/Oct				1.25 ML	\$19.74/ML	<b>\$24.68</b>	<b>\$24.68</b>
Contract-harvest	Nov	contract		<b>\$78.00</b>				<b>\$78.00</b>
Crop Levies					1.02%	of on-farm value		<b>\$9.44</b>
Crop Insurance					2.05%	of on-farm value		<b>\$18.96</b>

\* Irrigation water price is an average price. Use the variable cost of irrigation water applicable to your situation.

\*\*\* Input and crop prices are correct at the time of writing (March 2010). Market uncertainty makes estimation of future pricing impractical.

### NOTES:

#### Sowing time:

- Sowing at the optimum time for the selected variety is critical for maximum yield, regardless of irrigation.
- There is a 4 to 7% yield loss for every weeks 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 6 to 8 weeks after sowing time to avoid yield loss.
- Glyphosate for fallow knockdown weed control.
- A wide range of herbicides can be used, including chlorsulfuron for early weed control and fenoxaprop for in-crop grass control.
- As an alternative, Triasulfuron can be used for wild oat/ryegrass control.

#### Fertiliser:

- Adequate phosphorus is essential before applying extra nitrogen fertiliser. Nitrogen is essential to maintain protein levels and can be applied either at sowing or top-dressed in-crop.
- Rotate herbicide groups and use other non-chemical methods to avoid herbicide resistance developing.

#### Irrigation:

- Pre-irrigation may be optional, dependent on stored moisture following summer rainfall
- In-crop irrigation: timing and amount dependent on in-crop winter rainfall: generally two irrigations (2.5 ML/ha) in spring is sufficient.
- This budget is applicable for the Central Zone east, a higher water requirement may be required for the central zone/west than the figures used in this budget.
- Some of the yield response for irrigated crops is due to stored soil moisture and growing season rainfall which can be sufficient to grow a dryland crop. Thus the Gross Margin per ML is obtained by (GM/Ha of irrigated crop – GM/Ha alternative dryland crop):ML of irrigation water applied.

#### Machinery:

- A tractor with 149 kW (200 HP) pto power and 177 kW (240 HP) engine power is assumed.
- Machinery costs refer only to variable costs: fuel, oil, filters, tyres, batteries & repairs.

#### Labour:

- Contract-harvesting does not include the cost of fuel.
- The labour required for machinery operations is 1.95 hr/ha
- Using a labour cost of \$21/hr, an additional \$41.02 can be deducted from the 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 Industry & Investment NSW.

This budget is ONLY A GUIDE and should be altered for movements in crop and input prices, changes in seasonal conditions and the farm characteristics.