

Wheat: Long Fallow

Central Zone - East

Winter 2012

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/L (Roundup CT®)	Aug	0.05	53.40	\$2.88	1.20 L	\$4.68/L	\$5.62	\$8.49
Wetter eg. alkoxyated alcohol 1000 g/L (BS 1000®)	Aug	with above			0.20 L	\$7.00/L	\$1.40	\$1.40
Weed control eg: 2,4-D amine 300 g/L (Surpass®)	Aug	with above			1.20 L	\$3.80/L	\$4.56	\$4.56
Cultivation	Nov/Dec	0.17	57.07	\$9.77				\$9.77
Weed control eg: glyphosate 450 g/L (Roundup CT®)	Feb	0.05	53.40	\$2.88	1.20 L	\$4.68/L	\$5.62	\$8.49
Wetter eg. alkoxyated alcohol 1000 g/L (BS 1000®)	Feb	with above			0.20 L	\$4.68/L	\$0.94	\$0.94
Weed control eg: triclopyr 600 g/L (Garlon®)	Feb	with above			0.08 L	\$19.60/L	\$1.57	\$1.57
Weed control eg: glyphosate 450 g/L (Roundup CT®)	Apr/May	0.05	53.40	\$2.88	0.80 L	\$4.68/L	\$3.74	\$6.62
Wetter eg. alkoxyated alcohol 1000 g/L (BS 1000®)	Apr/May	with above			0.20 L	\$7.00/L	\$1.40	\$1.40
Nitrogen fertiliser eg: urea	May	0.17	53.40	\$8.98	80 kg	\$0.70/kg	\$56.00	\$64.98
Sowing	May	0.17	74.40	\$12.50	50 kg	\$0.92/kg	\$45.90	\$58.40
Seed treatment eg: Jockey Stayer®	May	with above			0.275 L	\$53.60/L	\$14.74	\$14.74
Starter fertiliser eg: MAP	May	with above			100 kg	\$1.03/kg	\$103.00	\$103.00
Weed control eg: chlorsulfuron 750 g/L (Glean®)	Jun	0.05	53.40	\$2.88	20 g	\$0.08/g	\$1.60	\$4.48
Broadleaf weed control eg: LVE Agritone® 500g/L	Jun/July	0.05	53.40	\$2.88	0.60 L	\$10.00/L	\$6.00	\$8.88
Grass weed control eg: clodinafop-propargyl (Topik®)	Jun/July	with above			0.09 L	\$130.00/L	\$11.44	\$11.44
Uptake®	Jun/July	with above			0.50 L	\$6.80/L	\$3.40	\$3.40
Foliar Fungicide eg: tebuconazole 430 g/L (Folicur®)	July/Aug	0.05	53.40	2.88	0.145 L	\$39.00/L	\$5.66	\$8.53
Foliar Fungicide eg: tebuconazole 430 g/L (Folicur®)	Sep/Oct	0.05	53.40	2.88	0.145 L	\$39.00/L	\$5.66	\$8.53
Contract-harvest	Nov	contract		\$78.00				\$78.00
Crop Levies					1.02%	of on-farm value		\$14.03
Crop Insurance					2.05%	of on-farm value		\$28.19

*** Input and crop prices are correct at the time of writing (March 2012). 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.

Weed control:

- Seed price used above is for purchased seed; if using retained seed adjust budget accordingly.
- Weed control, if required, should be implemented either pre-emergent or within 4 to 6 weeks after sowing to limit yield loss.

Fertiliser:

- Rotate herbicide groups and use other non-chemical methods to avoid herbicide resistance developing.
- 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.

Wheat price:

- Higher protein wheat is likely to be grown on fallow country with a good legume history.

Machinery:

- A tractor with 153 kW (181 HP) pto power and 166 kW (225 HP) engine power is assumed.
- Contract-harvesting does not include the cost of fuel.

Labour:

- The labour required for machinery operations is 0.55 hr/ha
- Using a labour cost of \$22/hr, an additional \$12.03 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 DPI.