



# Wheat: Long Fallow

## Central Zone - West

## Winter 2012

### CALENDAR OF OPERATIONS:

Operation	Month	Machinery			Inputs			Total Cost \$/ha
		hrs /ha	Cost	Total	rate/ha	Cost	Total	
			\$/hour	\$/ha		\$	\$/ha	
Weed control eg: glyphosate 540 g/L (Roundup PowerMAX®)	Aug/Sept	0.03	76.36	<b>\$2.50</b>	1.20 L	\$8.67/L	<b>\$10.40</b>	<b>\$12.90</b>
Weed control eg: glyphosate 540 g/L (Roundup PowerMAX®)	Dec/Jan	0.03	76.36	<b>\$2.50</b>	1.20 L	\$8.67/L	<b>\$10.40</b>	<b>\$12.90</b>
Weed control eg: triclopyr 600 g/L (Garlon®)	Dec/Jan	with above			0.10 L	\$19.60/L	<b>\$1.96</b>	<b>\$1.96</b>
Chisel Plough	Feb	0.14	86.11	<b>\$11.91</b>				<b>\$11.91</b>
Cultivation	Apr	0.10	74.79	<b>\$7.66</b>				<b>\$7.66</b>
Weed control eg: glyphosate 540 g/L (Roundup PowerMAX®)	Apr/May	0.03	76.36	<b>\$2.50</b>	1.20 L	\$8.67/L	<b>\$10.40</b>	<b>\$12.90</b>
Sowing	May	0.12	104.36	<b>\$12.22</b>	35 kg	\$0.92/kg	<b>\$32.13</b>	<b>\$44.35</b>
Starter fertiliser eg: MAP	May	with above			70 kg	\$1.03/kg	<b>\$72.10</b>	<b>\$72.10</b>
Grass weed control eg: clodinafop-propargyl (Topik®)	Jun/July	0.03	76.36	2.50	0.09 L	\$130.00/L	<b>\$11.44</b>	<b>\$13.94</b>
Uptake®	Jun/July	with above			0.25 L	\$6.80/L	<b>\$1.70</b>	<b>\$1.70</b>
Broadleaf weed control eg: LVE Agritone® 500g/L	July	0.03	76.36	<b>\$2.50</b>	0.70 L	\$10.00/L	<b>\$7.00</b>	<b>\$9.50</b>
Foliar Fungicide eg: tebuconazole 430 g/L (Folicur®)	July/Aug	0.03	76.36	2.50	0.145 L	\$39.00/L	<b>\$5.66</b>	<b>\$8.15</b>
Contract-harvest	Nov	contract		<b>\$48.00</b>				<b>\$48.00</b>
Crop Levies					1.02%	of on-farm value		<b>\$6.73</b>
Crop Insurance					1.03%	of on-farm value		<b>\$6.77</b>

\*\*\* 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 pasture is usually fallowed.
- Fallow is usually commenced in Aug-Sept to conserve moisture and stop 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 weeks delay past the optimum sowing time.
- Seed price used above is for purchased seed; if using retained seed adjust budget accordingly.

#### Weed control:

- Timing of fallow herbicide applications will vary according to rainfall.
- Weed control, if required, should be implemented either pre-emergent or within 6 to 8 weeks after sowing to avoid yield loss.
- Uptake oil @ 0.25 L/ha assumes a water rate of 50 L/ha.
- An additional knockdown herbicide application (eg. glyphosate 540 g/L @ 1.0 L/ha) should be considered if weeds are present at the time of sowing. Triasulfuron @ 35 g/ha can also be tankmixed with glyphosate immediately prior to sowing for residual control of some weed species.
- Rotate herbicide groups and use other non-chemical methods to delay herbicide resistance.

#### Fertiliser:

- Good nitrogen fertility is required to produce high yields and high protein percentage.
- 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 196 kW (263 HP) pto power and 242kW (325 HP) engine power is assumed.
- Machinery costs refer only to variable costs: fuel, oil, filters, tyres, batteries & repairs.
- Contract-harvesting does not include the cost of fuel.

#### Labour:

- Using a labour cost of \$22/hr, an additional \$13.44 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 NSW DPI.