

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

*** 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.