



Grain and Graze 2 is strengthening the resilience of mixed farming businesses across Australia by helping farmers to understand complex systems, adapt to market risks and seasonal changes, and to make informed decisions to optimise grain yield and livestock productivity while protecting the environment.

Grain and Graze 2 is coordinated by the Facey Group in WA and the Grains Research and Development Corporation nationally. It is funded by GRDC and the Australian Government's *Caring for our Country* initiative, who have invested a \$12 million nationally from 2009 - 2013.

The WA component will target local mixed farming systems, exploring new and emerging technologies and accelerating the adoption of key management practices and technologies.

The WA projects include:

- Grazing stubbles and no-till and livestock interaction; to better understand how grazing stubbles impacts on soil condition, crop and livestock productivity and overall farm profit.
- Grazing crops; to assist farmers and advisors in knowing how to maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of grazing winter crops, including cereals and canola, to explore ways to maximise the potential feed source
- Twin and summer sowing; exploring the suitability of twin or summer sowing in establishing pasture, to reduce pasture establishment time after crop.
- Pasture cropping; to explore the feasibility and profitability of a pasture cropping systems, and how to do it successfully; to reduce the time and expense of establishing or destroying pastures in conjunction with cropping phases.
- What, where, when: to identify options for different soils types that are more profitable and less risky than current practices, and develop simple 'rules of thumb' to use at the break of season to make better decisions.
- Risk and uncertainty; to provide advisors with skills in analysing and discussing risk with farm clients.
- Relative advantage: to develop farmer confidence that a practice, enterprise mix and method of integration is the best fit for a business and aspirations; to provide opportunity to identify and interact with innovative techniques, growers and advisors. This project also places participants in G&G2 at the forefront of innovation and solutions to mixed farming systems issues.

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