



Department of  
Agriculture and Food



**GRDC** Grains Research &  
Development Corporation  
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# Grazing crops in a dry year

Philip Barrett-Lennard

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# Why graze crops?

To increase whole farm profit (\$\$\$)

- by increasing crop area
- by increasing livestock numbers & performance
- by improving pasture management
- by delaying crop flowering (<frost risk)
- by improving disease / canopy management











# What did we do?

- 11 paired paddock comparisons in 2012
- Badgingarra to Esperance
- Canola, Wheat and Barley
- Sown and managed normally
- Grazed briefly in winter





# Warradarge

- 12%

2.60 t/ha

2.96 t/ha

- Variety: Mace Wheat
- Sown: May 26
- Grazed: July 24 - 25 @ 154 DSE/ha
- 307 DSE grazing days / ha



# Miling

- **Variety: Wyalkatchem Wheat**
- **Sown: May 27**
- **Grazed: July 3 - 10 @ 20 DSE/ha**
- **137 DSE grazing days / ha**
- **Grazed Yield: 2.67 vs 2.77 t/ha (- 4%)**







# Badgingarra

- **Variety: Crusher TT Canola**
- **Sown: May 10**
- **Grazed: June 21 - 27 @ 25 DSE/ha**
- **175 DSE grazing days / ha**
- **Grazed Yield: 1.56 vs 1.61 t/ha (- 3%)**



# Doodlakine

- 10%

0.73 t/ha

0.81 t/ha

- Variety: Tanami TT Canola
- Sown: May 1
- Grazed: July 4 - 11 @ 20 DSE/ha
- 140 DSE grazing days / ha



# Kellerberrin

- 15%

2.24 t/ha

2.63 t/ha

- Variety: Magenta Wheat
- Sown: May 12
- Grazed: July 2 - 13 @ 10 DSE/ha
- 110 DSE grazing days / ha



# Williams

3.81 t/ha

4.01 t/ha + 5%

- Variety: Baudin Barley
- Sown: May 20
- Grazed: July 6 - 8 @ 1050 DSE/ha
- ??? DSE grazing days / ha



# Woogenellup

- 21%

2.30 t/ha

2.90 t/ha

- Variety: Baudin Barley
- Sown: June 5
- Grazed: July 25 – August 9 @ 27 DSE/ha
- 265 DSE grazing days / ha



# Woogenellup

- 8%

1.48 t/ha

1.60 t/ha

- Variety: Hyola 404RR Canola
- Sown: May 18
- Grazed: July 27 – August 6 @ 24 DSE/ha
- 241 DSE grazing days / ha



# Cascade





# Cascade

1.61 t/ha

1.47 t/ha

- 9%

- **Variety: Mace Wheat**
- **Sown: May 6**
- **Grazed: June 17 - 24 @ 23 DSE/ha**
- **187 DSE grazing days / ha**



# Gibson



# Gibson

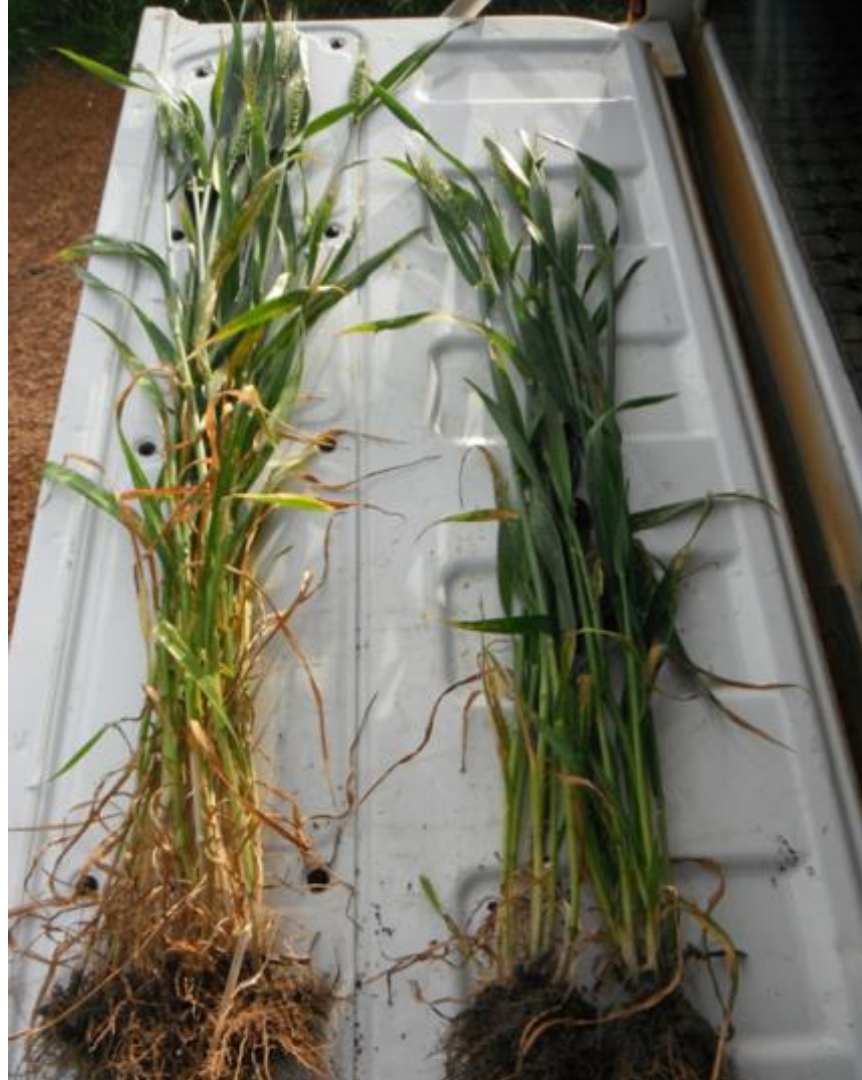
3.55 t/ha

3.46 t/ha

- 3%

- **Variety: Mace Wheat**
- **Sown: May 11**
- **Grazed: June 26 - July 8 @ 25 DSE/ha**
- **293 DSE grazing days / ha**







# Gibson

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- A photograph of a rural landscape featuring a large herd of cattle grazing in a lush green field. The cattle are of various colors, including black, white, and brown. In the background, there is a line of trees and a small hill under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.
- **Variety: Fleet Barley**
  - **Sown: May 26**
  - **Grazed: July 16 - 25 @ 32 DSE/ha**
  - **283 DSE grazing days / ha**
  - **Grazed Yield: 2.45 vs 2.73 t/ha (-10%)**

Location	Crop	Variety	Treatment	Yield	Oil	Protein	Weight	Colour	Screen *
				t/ha	%	%	kg/hl		%
Doodlakine	Canola	Tanami TT	Grazed	0.73	41.5	22.3			0
			Ungrazed	0.81	43.1	21.2			0
Kellerberrin	Wheat	Magenta	Grazed	2.24		12.4	82		1
			Ungrazed	2.63		12.7	82		1
Williams	Barley	Baudin	Grazed	4.01		9.5	66		9
			Ungrazed	3.81		9.4	67		9
Woogenellup	Barley	Baudin	Grazed	2.30		13.0	65	62	55
			Ungrazed	2.90		11.5	69	60	22
Woogenellup	Canola	Hyola 404RR	Grazed	1.48	39				
			Ungrazed	1.60	41				
Cascades	Wheat	Mace	Grazed	1.47		11.1	80		2
			Ungrazed	1.61		11.1	80		2
Gibson	Wheat	Mace	Grazed	3.46		10.3	78		3
			Ungrazed	3.55		11.3	77		4
Gibson	Barley	Fleet	Grazed	2.45		12.8	56	55	10
			Ungrazed	2.73		11.6	60	54	8





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Location	Crop	Change in Yield	Time of Grazing	Type of Grazing
Warradarge	Wheat	-12%	Late	Crash
Miling	Wheat	-4%	Average	Clip
Badgingarra	Canola	-3%	Early	Crash
Doodlakine	Canola	-10%	Average	Crash
Kellerberrin	Wheat	-15%	Average	Crash
Williams	Barley	+5%	Average	Crash
Woogenellup	Barley	-21%	Late	Crash
Woogenellup	Canola	-8%	Late	Clip
Cascades	Wheat	-9%	Early	Crash
Gibson	Wheat	-3%	Average	Clip
Gibson	Barley	-10%	Late	Clip





# A similar story in 2011...

Location	Crop	Change in Yield	Time of Grazing	Type of Grazing
Binnu	IT Canola	-2%	Early	Clip
Binnu	Wheat	-15%	Late	Crash
Mingenew	Wheat	0%	Late	Clip
Kojonup	TT Canola	-5%	Average	Crash
Coomalbidgup	Barley	-5%	Late	Crash / Clip
Dalyup	IT Canola	-3%	Average	Crash
Neridup	TT Canola	-12%	Late	Crash



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# 10 tips for 2013...

1. All cereal and canola varieties can be grazed
2. Sow as early as possible to maximise feed supply
3. Choose clean paddocks when grazing cereals
4. Select the right variety for the sowing date
5. Adhere to WHP's for chemicals
6. Graze early (pinch & twist) and evenly
7. Supplement stock with Ca:Na:Mg (cereals) and fibre (canola)
8. Don't graze too late (before GS 30, Bud 10cm and mid-late July)
9. Clip rather than crash graze when approaching Z30 or Bud 10cm
10. Apply top-up Nitrogen after grazing, not before



# Key messages

- Cereal and canola crops can provide highly valuable winter feed for livestock.
- Late and/or hard grazing will in most cases reduce yield. Dry conditions may also impact.
- Sow as early as possible to create opportunities for early grazing where yield is rarely impacted.







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# Questions?

[www.grainandgraze2.com.au](http://www.grainandgraze2.com.au)

