

## GRAZING CROPS & FROST

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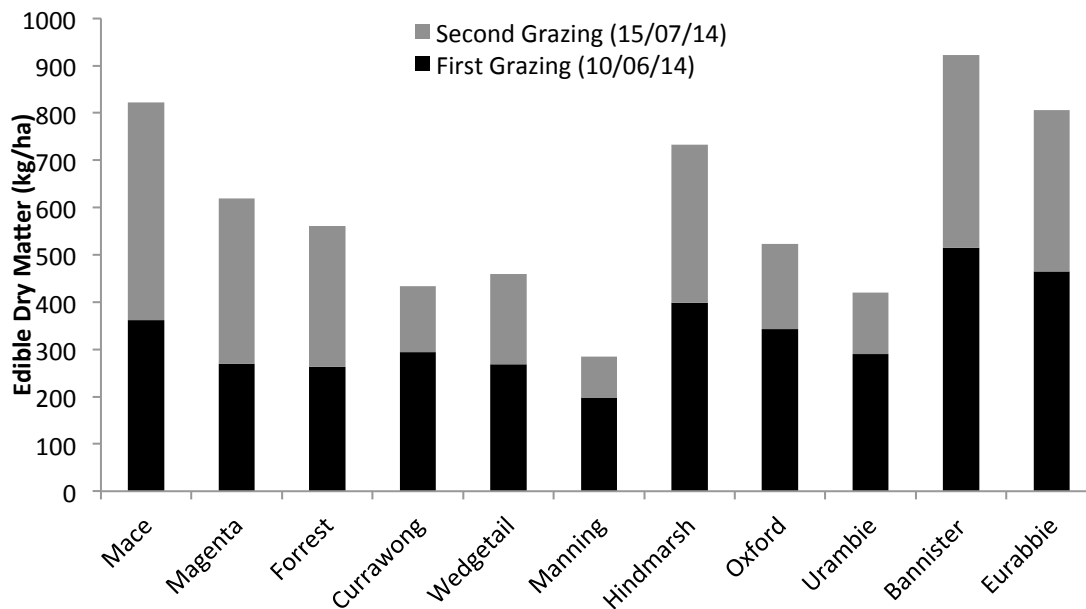
In 2014, the Facey Groups Grain and Graze 3 trial is looking to assess the impact of (and interaction between) grazing and frost damage on the grain yield and quality of a range of winter and spring cereal varieties sown at two times of sowing (TOS1 23<sup>rd</sup> April and TOS2 27<sup>th</sup> May). The trial is set out as a Complete Randomised Block design, with 2 times of sowing and 11 varieties, each replicated 3 times.

Plant maturity assessments have been conducted across the trial from approximately Z25 in both times of sowing - some early sown wheat, barley and oats has begun flowering. Tiny tag temperature loggers were installed in the trial in early August, with six loggers per time of sowing, one in each of ungrazed and grazed wheat, barley and oats. These will be used to determine the length and duration of any frosts that occur during the critical flowering window.

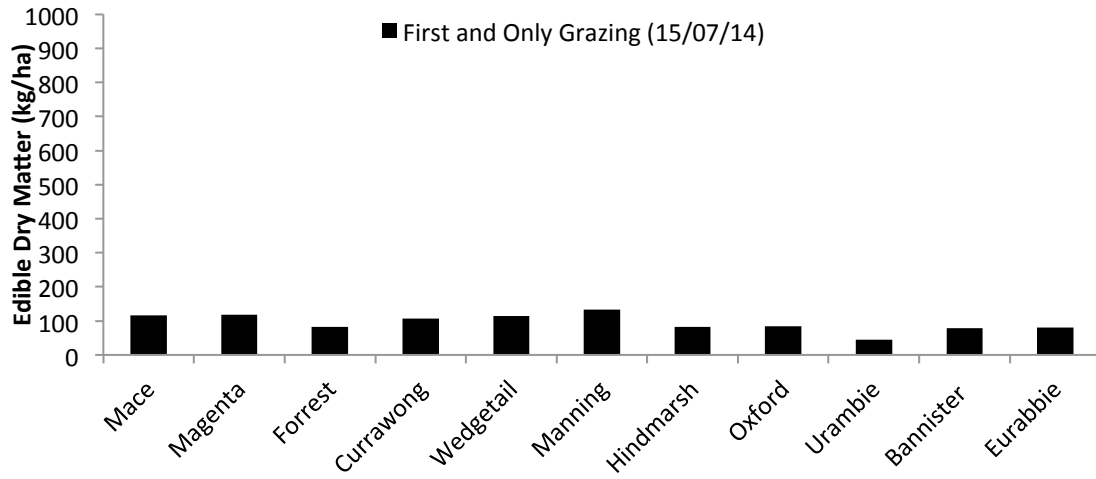
Biomass cuts were taken in TOS1 on 10th June 2014 to represent the first grazing. The second biomass cut was taken on 15th July 2014 in both TOS1 and TOS2. Results were converted into edible dry matter and are presented in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below.

Facey Group also ran a discussion group in August, which was attended by both growers and industry representatives, and involved a discussion followed by a site visit. More of these will be held in the next year, and are crucial in determining grower's priorities and therefore the direction of this research.

Once all data has been collected at the end of the season, it will be analysed to determine the impacts of grazing and frost on yield, and give an improved understanding of how all these factors interact.



**Figure 1:** Edible Dry Matter – TOS1 Grazing Cuts



**Figure 2:** Edible Dry Matter – TOS2 Grazing Cut

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