

# MAC Farm Report 2018

**INFORMATION**

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**Location**

Minnipa Agricultural Centre

**Rainfall**

Av. Annual: 325 mm

Av. GSR: 241 mm

2018 Total: 269 mm

2018 GSR: 208 mm

## Key outcomes

- **On average MAC wheat yielded 1.38 t/ha, barley 1.54 t/ha, canola 0.23 t/ha, peas 0.42 t/ha.**
- **80% of total farm area was sown to crops and pastures.**
- **335 breeding ewes mated to merino rams produced 290 lambs at marking with 39 scanned dry.**
- **55 tonnes of certified Razor CL and 18 tonnes of certified DS Bennett seed was made available for sale to growers.**

## Background

The performance of the Minnipa Agricultural Centre (MAC) commercial farm is an essential component in the delivery of relevant research, development and extension to Eyre Peninsula. The effective use of research information and improved technology is an integral part of the role of the farm. MAC had white peg trials in eight paddocks and continued to take full pedigree records and production measurements on the sheep research flock in the 2018 season.

## What happened?

Dry, dry, dry, then a wet August, then dry, dry, dry! The season was defined at MAC by a very wet August and yields attained were good considering; a mild finish also helped.

The seeding program began on 1 May and was completed on 7 June. All crops were sown dry with Granuloc Z fertilizer at 65 kg/ha.

- Wheat - 473 ha (Scepter, Trojan, Longsword, Chief CL, Razor CL, DS Bennett, Mace) sown at 75 kg/ha
- Barley - 222 ha (Spartacus, Compass, RGT Planet) sown at 70 kg/ha
- Canola - 25.5 ha (44Y90, 43Y92, Stingray) sown at 2 kg/ha
- Peas - 13 ha (PBA Butler) sown at 75 kg/ha
- Vetch - 115 ha (Volga, Cummins) sown at 40 kg/ha
- Pasture - 206 ha (regenerated medic)
- Trials - 45 ha (DLPS, NVT, etc.)

To try to prevent erosion, Super Sweet Sedan (forage sorghum-Sudan hybrid) was sown on 23 November after rain in paddock N5 with limited success.

## Certified seed

- Razor CL
- DS Bennett winter wheat (yielded 1.13 t/ha, surprising for a true winter wheat in a dry and short year)

## Harvest

Harvest commenced on 8 November (Volga and Cummins vetch) and finished on 5 December (DS Bennett). The program was

completed with little interruption and efficiency of operations increased by using the new chaser bin. The average farm yields were; wheat 1.38 t/ha, barley 1.54 t/ha, canola 0.23 t/ha, peas 0.42 t/ha, and vetch yielded approximately 0.08 t/ha.

## Issues encountered in 2018

- Poor establishment of canola due to lack of moisture
- Lack of early season rainfall
- Lack of paddock feed for livestock
- Lack of finishing rains

## Farm improvements and equipment

- New Vennings 12 tonne chaser bin with scales purchased for harvest and sheep feeding duties
- New sheep yards and ramp installed
- Six kilometres of new fencing

## Things of interest

- Variety comparisons in wheat, barley and canola
- Deep ripping demonstrations

## Livestock

Stock currently on the farm: 342 merino ewes, 136 merino ewe lambs, 148 merino wether lambs and 7 merino rams.

Reproduction results overall for 2018: 334 ewes were mated and 39 ewes were scanned dry. 290 lambs were marked from 295 pregnant, with a combination of cold temperatures, low birth weights and high litter sizes, leading to starvation, mismothering and exposure as the main cause of lamb deaths. Giving an average lambing of 98% from ewes scanned in lamb.

The shearing of the flock was completed on 23 August, with the previous shearing in late January. For the August shearing, wool growth period was just under seven months. Ewes averaged 3.8 kilograms per animal and the ewe lambs/hoggets averaged 2.4 kilograms per animal, with average staple lengths measuring 52.5 cm and 56.6 cm respectively.

Ewe and wether lambs weighed in at an average of 33.1 kg per animal at weaning. Although this did include a third of the lambs that

were on average two weeks older than the majority and weighed at 14 weeks compared to 12 weeks for the rest. This was due to a ram (AKA Romeo) getting in with the flock ewes around two weeks before joining.

Some issues carried forward in the animals from photosensitisation from the previous spring, with ewe dry weights approximately 5-10 kg lower than their average records, and some ewe and ewe hogget deaths were also attributed to the

prolonged effect it had on some animals.

Two rams were purchased in 2018, from a stud on Eyre Peninsula presenting ASBVs.

### Acknowledgements

MAC farm staff: Wade Shepperd and John Kelsh

MAC research staff: Jessica Crettenden

MAC administration staff: Leala Hoffmann, Dot Brace and Naomi Scholz.

**Table 1 Harvest results, 2018 grain yields and protein aligned with paddock rotational histories**

Paddock	Paddock History 2013-2017	Crop 2018	Sowing Date	Yield (t/ha)	Protein (%)	Screenings (%)
North 1	W W P W P	Medic (P)				
North 2	B P C W P	Medic (P)				
North 3	W V W B V	Scepter (W)	5 June	1.41	11.6	1.5
North 4	P W W P W	Compass (B)	16 May	2.10	14.5	1.8
North 5 N	W W B P W	Mace (W)/Compass (B)	17 May	1.56	11.2/14.5	2.4/1.8
North 5 S	W W P W P	Scepter (W)	6 June	1.34	12.2	2.0
North 6	Pe W W B P	Scepter (W)	7 June	1.23	11.13	2.5
North 7	W P W P C	Razor CL/Chief CL/Hatchet CL	31 May	1.61/1.45 /1.12	11.1/13.0 /12.8	6.0/2.8/4.5
North 8	W P W P C	Longsword/DS Bennett	31 May	1.44/1.14	13.6/13.9	1.4/5.5
North 9	B V W B/W O	Peas (P)	7 June	0.42		
North 10/11	W W P W P	Spartacus (B)	11 May	1.34	16.0	3.0
North 12	W S S W W	Canola (C)	2 May	0.02		
South 1	C W Pe W B	Vetch/Barley/Canola Hay Mix	1 May			
South 2	Pe W W P W	Spartacus (B)	14 May	1.31	16.0	3.0
South 3	P P W B V	Scepter (W)	25 May	1.36	11.4	2.4
South 4	W P O/V W B	Volga (V)	4 May	0.07		
South 5	B W P W B	Medic (P)				
South 6	W W B P W	Spartacus (B)	10 May	1.50	16.0	3.0
South 7	W W P W B	Medic (P)				
South 9	W B P P W	Spartacus/ RGT Planet/ Compass	15 May	1.50/1.25 /1.55	17.2/21.7 /18.3	11.2/20.9 /7.0
South 10	V B B V W	Longsword (W)	8 May	0.96	13.3	1.3
Barn	P P W O P	Scepter (W)	24 May	1.51	11.8	2.0
House	P P W O P	Scepter (W)	24 May	1.50	11.8	2.0

P = pasture, Pe = field pea, W = wheat, B = barley, O = oats, C = canola, V = vetch, S = sulla