The advantages of a cropping operation AND a livestock operation BUT on different parts of the farm.

Gary Lang Wickepin
12/10 in 20

- “Anyone in this country who does anything for anything other than profit is either a maniac or potential bankrupt.”
  Sir James Killen
Farm Overview

- 4000ha or 10000ac
- 3400ha or 8500ac
- 15km Nth of Wickepin
- 210km SE Perth
- Crop 2800ha
- Wheat, Barley, Canola, Lupins, Hay, Oats, Peas
- Shear 6-7000 sheep including Wyoming Downs Merino Stud
- Labour Force of Dad & I, one full time employee and one casual.
Sheep & Crops on different areas

- Pasture/Wheat still a dominant rotation
- Mid 90’s farming to soil type
- Continuous cropping sand (erosion, lupins)
- Sheep – clays, Williams granite, salt challenged areas and the small areas close to sheds (stud ram paddocks)
Pasture/ Wheat Rotation

• Continual compromise
• Grass free pasture for cropping
• Poor pasture regeneration for sheep
• Difficult to establish crops into hard pasture paddocks
• Climate change?
Evaluating Paddock Profitability

- Yield potential
- Grain legume suitability
- Sheep suitability
  - fences,
  - water,
  - distance to shearing shed,
  - other sheep paddocks nearby
- Ease of cropping. (rocks, creeks etc.)
- Land care (wind erosion, west bank)
Profit summaries

- Farmanco analysis
- 5 Year average    2007 gross margins
- Wheat            $206  $583
- Barley            $180  $627
- Canola            $90   $520
- Lupins            $36   $235
- Oats              $134  $514
- Hay               $156  $237
- Sheep             $11   ($19)
Cropping

- WANTFA approach, Tramlined,
- Lightest land – average yields not 20% less.
- 2006
  - 2t/ha cereals (district 1.3t/ha)
  - 1.6 t/ha lupins
  - 1.2 t/ha canola
- Neighbours didn’t sell grain at all.
Sheep

- All good grazing systems run on grass
- Ram paddocks more grass
- Earlier feed
- Higher stocking rates
Lucerne & Salt Areas

- Water table management
- Green feed to Christmas
- Tail weaners
- Grazing value
Grazing Summaries

- Sheep grazing days/ha April-Oct 2006
- Ram Paddocks 1318 days
- Lucerne 1096 days
- Pasture after Wheat 672 days
Disadvantages

- Cropping (weeds, machinery requirements, frost and nutrition.)
- Sheep (no lupin stubbles, and not as many other stubbles)
- Lucerne (average 20% lower crop yield)
Where we are today

• Cropping paddocks 2400ha
• Around Salt 300ha
• Ram Paddocks 100ha
• Pasture based cropping (granite) 600ha
• Total 3400ha
Summary

- Higher crop yields
- Higher stocking rates
- Higher profits
- We have 83% in crop.
- There are benefits being able to apply the most suitable tool.
- Did climate change drive the change on our farm?
- 12/10 in 20
- 12 paddocks canola / 10 paddocks pasture in 20 kms west of Wickepin.