



Ararat Advertiser
Tuesday 9/02/2010

Page: 21
Section: General News
Region: Ararat VIC, AU
Circulation: 2547
Type: Regional
Size: 241.57 sq.cms.



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Monola program boosts profit and productivity

LAKE BOLAC - Chatsworth House farm manager Trent Adams, has for the past three years been implementing a new farming program at the Lake Bolac property.

Now aimed at prime lamb production, it relies on crop rotations that can maintain the production of quality cereal fodder and pasture feed.

"We are developing a rotation where fat lamb and crop production complement, rather than compete with each other, and where we can maximise returns," Trent said.

To achieve this, Trent has developed a crop rotation with the help of Gorst Rural Supplies' agronomist, Jo Fay.

"A typical rotation here would be a seed/forage crop in year one," Jo said.

"In year two we need to clean that paddock in preparation for a wheat crop in year three. So in year two we

plant a canola crop - one that is triazene tolerant (TT) so we can control weeds such as wild radish and ryegrass that may have caused concern in year one."

Trent said they used to plant a range of canola varieties for this purpose but now concentrate on Monola 77TT.

"Monola has been a stand-out variety with yields equal to or better than other TT varieties, or conventional canola," Trent said.

"It has exhibited good resistance to Blackleg and cabbages quickly with good even growth.

"We have quite variable soil types and found that Monola handles them equally well and its growth is not affected by sowing directly into trash."

Trent said returns for Monola are significantly better than other canola varieties because of the high oil content, a price premium, and lower

transport costs.

"Monola grain easily reaches and usually surpasses the minimum requirement of 42 percent oil content, and this attracts a price bonus," he said.

"Not only that, there is a \$45/t premium for Monola; and our nearest delivery depot is Lake Bolac - very close compared to depots for other varieties."

Trent said delivery to Lake Bolac has halved freight costs and improved efficiency at harvest because of the quick truck turn-around time.

"This year Monola has had a particularly long flowering, about ten or eleven weeks, resulting in more pods and hopefully even higher yields, greater oil content and good returns."



L-R Trent Adams inspects his healthy Monola crop with agronomist Jo Fay and Nuseed southern region manager, Rob Christie.