

Testing, testing... say 'hay' to Hart's intern!

UPDATE 1

May 12, 2020



Brianna Guidera

Hart update from Brianna...

During my internship I'll be involved in all of Hart's trial work, but with a special focus on our National Hay Agronomy (NHA) and Soil and Plant Testing projects. Throughout the year I'll update you on those trials in particular, in fact you'll find my first update from the next page.

I'll also keep you posted on what's been happening at Hart...

Over the last few weeks, we have been busy preparing for seeding (lots of seed packing) and soil coring for our Yield Prophet project. So far, so good – the only major mishap has been a broken spring on the soil rig. Big thank you to Justin Wundke who kindly repaired it for us.

With 60mm rainfall during April, our winter wheat, vetch and nitrogen in canola trials are all in the ground with the rest to follow very soon.

More to come soon.

Brianna

Hart Regional Intern 2020

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Pictured: Hart's R&E Manager Bek Allen (right) and I out soil sampling last month.

National Hay Agronomy (NHA)

The NHA is investigating best practice agronomy for oaten hay production. We'll grow nine oat varieties (see table below) sown at two times and apply five rates of fertiliser. We'll assess hay yield and quality, and grain yield.

As I write this the team at SARDI Clare are putting the first of it in the ground.

Table 1. Summary of varieties used in the trial

Variety	Maturity
Durack	Short
Williams	Mid
Carrolup	Mid
Yallara	Mid
Koorabup	Mid
Brusher	Mid to mid-long
Mulgara	Mid-long
Wintaroo	Mid-long
Vasse	Long

While we're talking about oats, there was quite the demand for a trial with the new Kingbale oats variety which we managed to squeeze onto the field site. We will compare its yield to Wintaroo and Mulgara – certainly something to keep an eye out for at the Field Day (September 15, 2020).



*Project: National Hay Agronomy Project
Funded by: Agrifutures Australia*



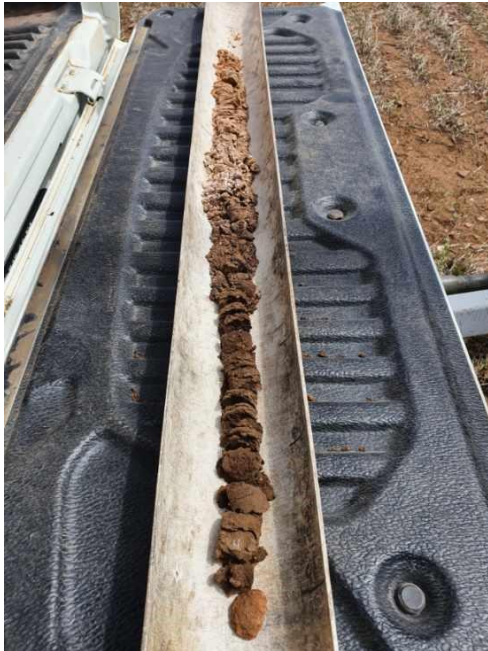
Soil & plant testing

The Soil and Plant Testing project is researching the use of soil testing prior to seeding to make informed nitrogen (N) & phosphorus (P) fertiliser decisions.

We have taken **2,520** soil cores from five farms across the Mid-North and fertiliser test strips have been implemented.

Quite the effort(!) but it's been interesting to see the variation in soil characteristics within and between paddocks and a great chance to see more of the Mid-North.

I'll post more updates when we have germination and some results to show.



Pictured: Soil cores from near Snowtown (left) and Spalding (right).



*Project: Soil & Plant Testing for Profitable Fertiliser Use
Funded by: GRDC*

