# Grazing Crops – 2010 paddock scale experiences in WA

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## Objectives

- Compare the production from sheep grazing a standing cereal or canola crop
- Compare the yield and quality of grazed crops with ungrazed crops
- Undertake a gross margin analysis to calculate the potential benefits of grazing crops

# Kane Page – Pingelly 2010 167mm = 50% of Ave GSR 335mm, 40 days **≤3˚C**



Wyalkatchem wheat 2010

Dash barley 2010

| $/ha | grazed | $951 |
|---|---|---|
| | ungrazed | $642 |
| Benefit | | $309/ha |

$/ha grazed $853

ungrazed $525

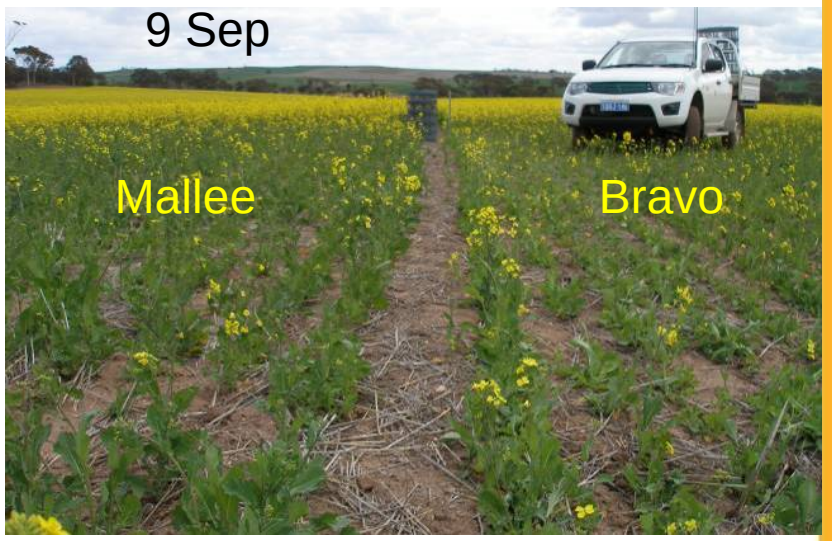
Benefit $328/ha

Grazed at high dse, shorter season variety, recovered well

Grazed at high dse, both grazed and ungrazed had high screenings


**YOU CAN GROW MORE LAMB**

Dale Cronin – Wagin 2010 188mm = 59% of Ave GSR 320mm, 44 days **≤3˚C**


Bravo TT 2010

| $/ha | | |
|---|---|---|
| | grazed | $162 |
| | ungrazed | $222 |
| Benefit | | -$60/ha |

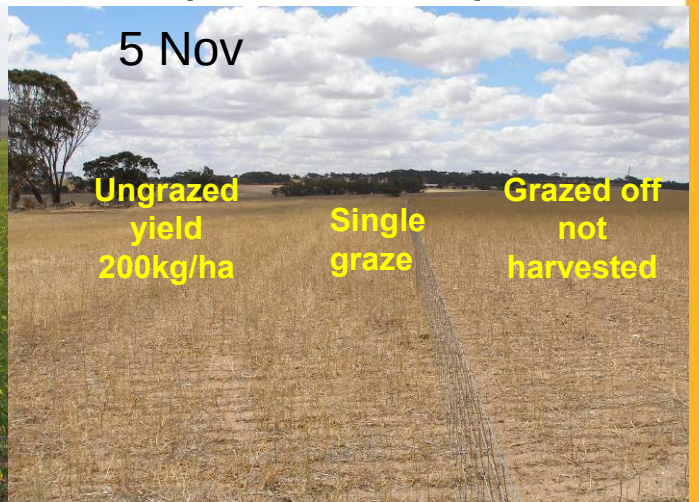
Mallee HT 2010

| $/ha | | |
|---|---|---|
| | grazed | $230 |
| | ungrazed | $266 |
| Benefit | | -$36/ha |

Actual ungrazed harvested yield was 200kg/ha, not 400 as was hand harvested

**Grazed at mod- high dse, frost and dry finish affected yield, ungrazed area performed as expected**






**YOU CAN GROW MORE LAMB**

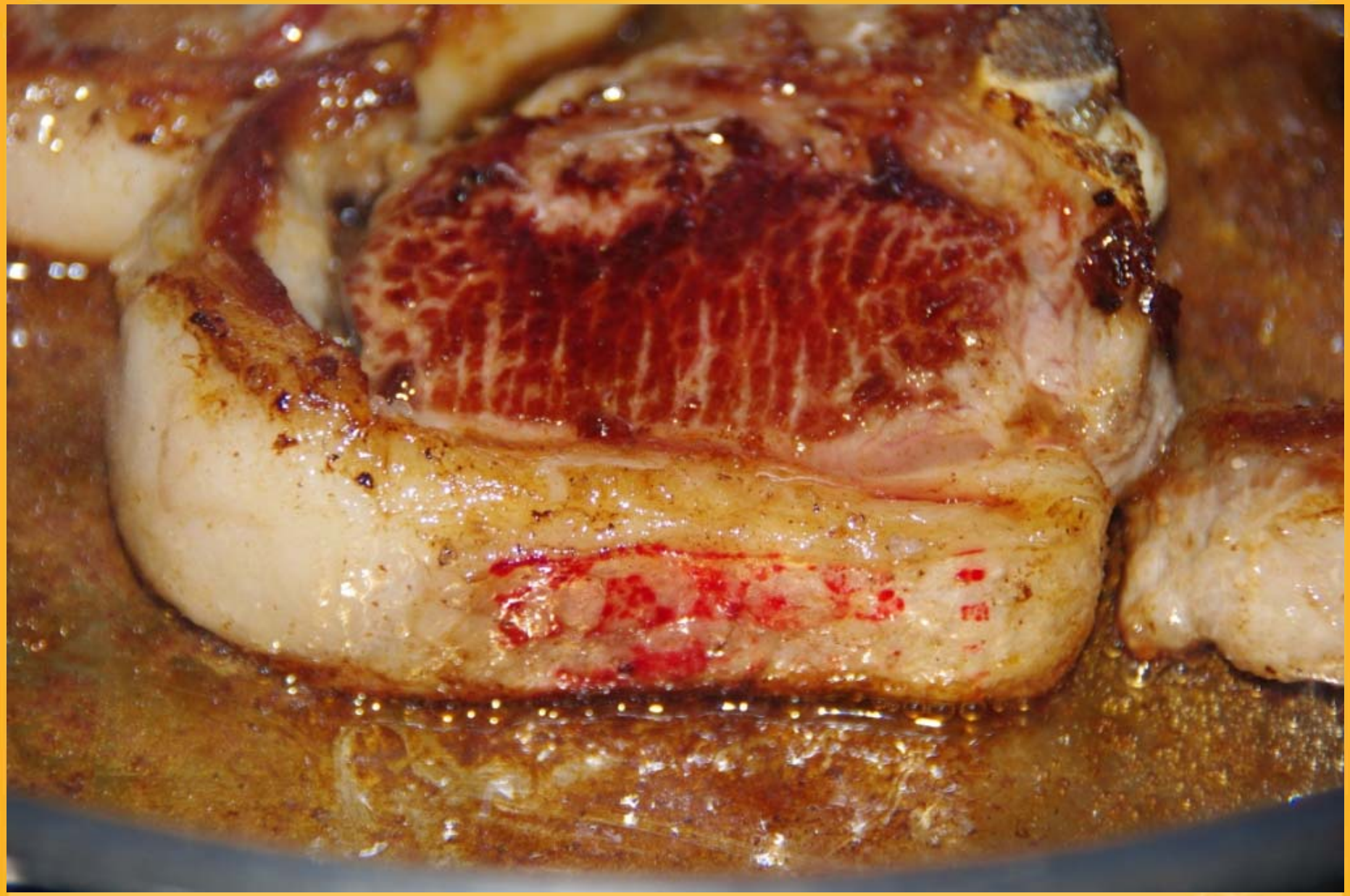
Michael Spooner – Wagin 2010 188mm = 59% of Ave GSR 320mm, 44 days **≤3˚C**



Wedgetail wheat 2010

| $/ha | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | grazed | $405 | Benefit | $183/ha |
| | ungrazed | $222 | | |

Grazed at moderate dse, long season variety, frosts and dry finish low yields

# YOU CAN GROW MORE LAMB

Rob Warburton – Katanning (Kojonup)  2010 142mm = 40% of Ave GSR 357mm, 27 days ≤3˚C
Bridgetown 2010 370mm = 56% of Ave GSR 648mm, 71 days ≤3˚C



| Thunder TT 2010 | Yield | $/ha grain | Ewes and lambs @ 75 dse/ha |
|---|---|---|---|
| grazed | 1.24 | $677 | 750 grazing days / ha |
| ungrazed | 1.26 | $691 | (probably worth $200/ha) |

Tim Stevenson – Katanning 2010 142mm = 40% of Ave GSR 357mm, 27 days **≤3˚C**
(Kojonup) Bridgetown 2010 370mm = 56% of Ave GSR 648mm, 71 days **≤3˚C**


Wedgetail wheat 2010

| $/ha | | |
|---|---|---|
| | grazed | $888 |
| | ungrazed | $714 |
| | Benefit | $174/ha |

Grazed at low dse, disease and frost affected ungrazed yield

## Key Messages

- Grazing crops can increase returns to cropped paddocks and allow pastures to be deferred, however seasonal constraints can affect both the timing of grazing and the yield and grain quality from the crops.
- Longer season varieties may struggle to finish after grazing, especially with little follow up rain and continued frosts.
- Grazing existing varieties and planting earlier is likely to be the best option. This can allow early grazing, lower disease risk, lower frost risk and have little effect on yield.

## Key Messages

- Use twist test to commence grazing (Canola 6-8 leaf)
- Not past the white line or after GS 30 (Canola leave 100mm)
- Apply nitrogen after grazing to aid recovery
- 2010 results should be compared to those locations that receive similar average growing season rainfall to that experienced.


**Thanks for growing MORE LAMB, WHEAT and BARLEY**

Department of Agriculture and Food

GRDC Grains Research & Development Corporation

CROP updates 2011

Cheers