

Brigalow Bites

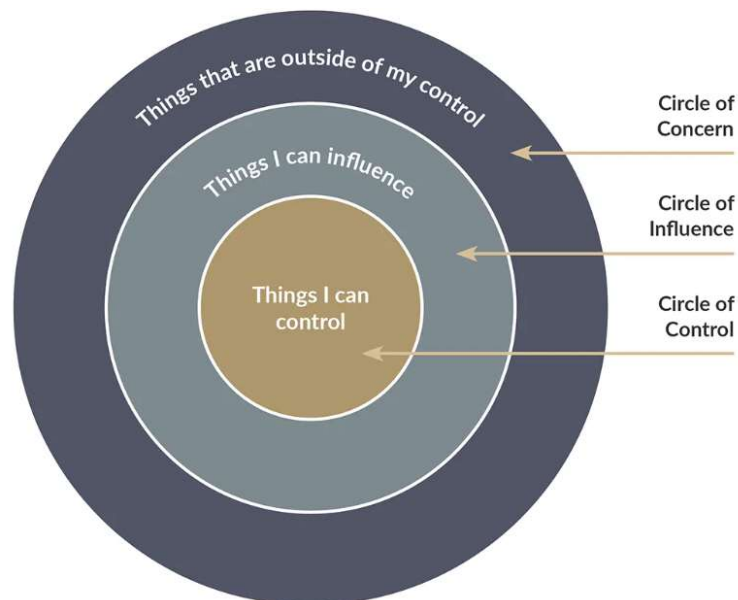
Edition 14 Tuesday 31st March 2026

When I mentioned in the last newsletter “if it doesn’t rain, it pours”, I was simply referencing a minor clash in local events. But how things have changed in a month!

Locally, the clouds decided to sit over the northern Downs for 36 hours causing significant flooding and forced rescheduling of activities. The team at Wood Ag had the mops out and the Eastern Rural crew relied on vendors to supply photos for the Clearing Sale as they couldn’t get around.

But most significantly, in the last month, our thinking has been consumed by the flow on impacts of war and the disruption to supply chains for critical crop inputs. It is hard to know where to get accurate information in stressful times or to be skeptical that your voice is not being heard by decision makers. Brendan Taylor assures me that Industry Groups such as AgForce and NFF are actively feeding information from the grassroots back to state and federal governments, and that both short- and long-term perspectives are being discussed.

What is happening internationally is absolutely hurting us all, but it might be time to reinforce that most of this is completely out of our control. Spending too much time on these factors results in us ‘spinning the wheels’ - expending a lot of energy and getting nowhere. Try to focus your efforts on the things that you can control. In farming that might mean making sure you know how full the soil profile is and where your nutrient levels are at (such that you can make informed decisions about which paddocks to plant). Check your seed quality, make sure the planter is ready to go. Eat well and check in with your family and your mates.



At our Winter Planter Setup Workshop on Thursday 9th April and half-day meeting on Friday 17th April, we will focus on the inner circle. We’d love for you to join us.

WINTER PLANTER SETUP FIELD DAY – 10:15AM - 5:00PM THURSDAY 9TH APRIL

After a false start in March due to a few puddles, we are excited that calendars could be shuffled and the team of independent experts could be pulled together again to share their knowledge on optimising planter and air cart setup for successful winter crop establishment. NSW-based agronomy and research providers AMPS have organised a fantastic line up of static machinery displays from a range of manufacturers and will provide reminders about seed quality, the investment decision and safety. This GRDC supported event is free to attend but please RSVP directly via the QR code on the flyer or to www.trybooking.com/DJTMD

Winter Planter Setup Workshop

WINTER PLANTER BAR BASICS - AIR CART SETUP - WINTER CROP ESTABLISHMENT

GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

NORTHERN REGION
MARCH 2026

12th March
10.15AM - 5.00PM

Brigalow

Venue: Inverai Hall, 1911 Warra Canaga Creek Road, Tuckerang QLD

amps

Grain growers, planting contractors and industry stakeholders are invited to participate in one of a series of GRDC 2026 Winter Planter Setup Workshops.

The workshops, hosted by AMPS Research, will include a range of local winter planter bars and air carts. Hear from independent and industry experts on effective planter bar and air cart set up to improve winter crop establishment, crop establishment fundamentals, adjusting to local conditions, benchmarking and financial considerations, as well as keeping safe during planting.

PRESENTERS

Brett Asphar - Independent Specialist
Matt Gardner - AMPS Research
Kim Bowman - AgriPath
Paul McIntosh - WeedSmart & Pulse Australia Agronomy
Industry representatives - Planter bars & Air carts

Program

- Seed testing, purchases and calculations – managing your most critical input at planting
- Managing variability in local soil and seasonal conditions at planting
- Winter planter bars – setup and maintenance & review of local implements
- Air carts – setup and maintenance & review of local implements
- Benchmarking and financial decisions for winter planters & air carts
- On farm safety at planting time



Or register via the link here:
www.trybooking.com/DJTMD

For further information,
contact Sarah Ball 0429 263 364

GRDC Project code: AMP2402-001SAx

BFG AUTUMN MEETING – 12:30 – 5:00PM FRIDAY 17TH APRIL

The half-day program has been designed to address current industry pressures with only a couple of presentations and much of the afternoon dedicated to agronomy discussion.

Presentations

- James Hagan – DPI Economist – Crop gross margins and break even yield analysis
- Joe Eyre – UQ – Introduction to the GRDC supported Sorghum Strategic Alliance

Agronomy discussion

- Focusing on issues raised by members with technical input from the BFG Agronomy network, Tim Neale, Paul McIntosh, and the USQ Soil borne disease team (Kirsty Owen & Cassy Percy)

Sponsor acknowledgement

- Clancy Cosgrove from AgriShed will detail their business offering

Please click on one of the links to let me know if you can attend

[Yes, I'm attending](#)

[No, not this time](#)

FREE WATER QUALITY ANALYSIS

Spraytec joined as a sponsor late last year and has kindly offered complimentary water quality analysis for members.

Queensland based sales agronomist Kirk Downie has suggested members bring a maximum of 2 x samples each to the meeting on the 17th April, and he will collect them there. Spraytec needs about 300ml for testing but fill up any plastic water bottle and label it with the following

- Grower Name
- Main Retailer
- Contact Number
- Email
- Water Source and Location
- Water Storage (concrete, plastic, metal)

Later in the year we will be holding a Spray Technology Forum and this local survey of water quality will form the basis for discussion on spray optimisation.

ONLINE CLEARING SALE

The BFG online clearing sale is a happening thing and the lots (169 of them) can be viewed on [Auctions Plus](#).

A huge thank you to those that have offered up items for sale and to Andrew Kirtley for pulling it all together. Following is a summary of the critical dates and times during auction week.

- Auction opens Monday 13th April 10.00am
- On-farm inspection days Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th April 10.00am to 1.00pm
- Auction closing timer starts Thursday 16th April 6.00pm
- Collection days Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th April 10.00am to 1.00pm
- Sale is hammer price plus GST (no buyers premium)

While Andrew has put in place a comprehensive advertising program, feel free to circulate the link far and wide and let's get some gear moved! For more information contact Andrew Kirtley 0400 598 866.

SORGHUM PADDOCK ANALYSIS

Harvest of the sorghum crops is drawing to a close so now is a good time to pull the paddock records together and review the results achieved.

Attached is the excel spreadsheet we used last year to collate the Group's production figures, and we would like to do this again. Please complete for your paddocks and return them to admin@brigalowfg.org.au. Alternatively access the spreadsheet [here](#). A reminder that results are anonymous and used to learn not to compare.

PIGEONPEA FIELD WALK SUMMARY

It was fantastic to visit the pigeonpea trial at Wade Bidstrup's last week that featured both the DPI and Woods Seeds genetics. The DPI lines are quite determinant and were ready to be desiccated, while the Woods Seeds lines had responded to the recent rainfall and were continuing to flower and pod (as was Wade's commercial crop surrounding the trial). Positively, the crop was standing well and pods had not shattered. As an industry there is still considerable work to be done to refine agronomy practices and chemical registrations, but it was great to see MCA Agronomy have been working with both organisations to investigate factors including starter fertiliser responses and desiccation. For more information on pigeonpea contact Bruce Winter 0419 652 243 or Angus Woods 0438 429 163.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Last week a webinar was held looking at Dealing with Variable Nitrogen Prices in Cropping Systems. A recording is now available on the North West LLS YouTube platform: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRuUS1SYqMc>

The presenters are more than happy to take any follow-up questions via email:

James Hagan: James.Hagan@dpi.qld.gov.au

Cameron Leckie: Cameron.Leckie@unisq.edu.au

Bill Manning: william.manning@lls.nsw.gov.au

The following are links to resources mentioned in the webinar:

- [Urea Under Pressure: History Says Brace for Impact - Episode 3](#)
- [Movement of nitrogen in the soil profile with rainfall - GRDC](#)
- [ARM Online](#)
- [Managing Legume and Fertiliser N for Northern Grains Cropping](#)

HARVEST SUPPORT

As detailed in the last Brigalow Bites, we are happy to share the details of businesses affiliated with BFG who have trucking capacity and may be available to assist with grain transport. If you require trucking services, please contact the business directly.

Business Name	Contact	Services offered
Brownhalls Transport	Steven – 0429 432 638 Rodney – 0427 587 893	A-double, B-double, single haulage On-farm or to market
Darby Harvesting and Haulage	Peter – 0459 022 377	Bulk tipper road trains 25t spreadable step deck

JTSG Contracting	Jack - 0491 109 599	A-double, B-double, single haulage On-farm or to market
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Details	Contact
1 April	GRDC Grains Research Update online, spreading your fertiliser budget further	Time: 10:00am – 11:00am (Qld time) Venue: Online Cost: Free	ORM Pty Ltd 03 5441 6176 admin@orm.com.au
9 April	Winter Planter Setup Workshop	10:15am – 5:00pm Inverai Hall	Sarah Ball 0429 263 364 sarah.ball@ampsagribusiness.com.au
12–16 April	BFG Online Clearing Sale	Eastern Rural Sale through Auctions Plus	Andrew Kirtley 0400 598 866 andrew.kirtley@easternrural.com.au
17 April	BFG Autumn Half-day Meeting	12:30 – 5:00pm Inverai Hall	Vicki Green 0408 759 395
21 August	BFG Full Day Meeting	TBA	Vicki Green 0408 759 395
27 November	BFG AGM	TBA	Vicki Green 0408 759 395

OTHER BITS...

- Members wanting to purchase the seed generously donated by our Sponsors, should contact Vicki (refer to Member Memo)
- Footprint Survey responses are still wanted (also in the Member Memo)
- Don't forget to RSVP to the Planter Setup Workshop and the BFG Autumn Meeting
- Grab 2 x 600mL spray water samples and get them analysed for free

Until next time, take care...