THE BIG 10 LESSONS LEARNT FROM 2021



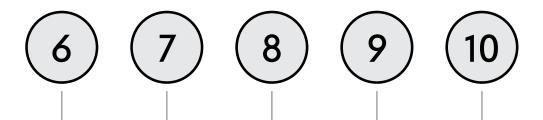
New herbicides, like new varieties, need to be integrated carefully and slowly into a program to find their best fit and limitations, and always make sure you read the label. It is not a one-size-fits-all business.

Establishment pests such as slugs and snails thrive in damp conditions but still need management when there is marginal moisture. Heavy stubble loads and dews are enough to cause damage.

Late starts and dry winters are great disease management tools for pathogens that prefer cold, wet conditions.

Crops under a proper dry start can sit in the ground and wait for a breaking rain longer than you think. Even canola, which was still profitable in many cases.

Mice populations can generally be kept in check most seasons by baiting at sowing. There will however be blow out seasons that need a different approach.



Windrowing canola needs to be done at the right time to maximise yield and quality: too early may give a false sense of security. It's amazing what yields we can get when limited rain falls at the right time. Work may however need to be undertaken to better understand the water use efficiency of newer varieties, allowing us to fully realise and manage for yield potential.

Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Diversity in the crop rotation or the enterprise mix protects against seasonal risks and weather events.

It's hard to plan for and manage frost every season. Late sowing reduces the peak risk period but is not a foolproof approach—you can still get hit.

Higher spring rainfall increases the risk of fly strike in sheep. When shearing is delayed due to labour shortages, greater vigilance is required.