THE BIG TEN
LESSONS LEARNT FROM 2019

1

Significant summer rainfall is as good as money in the bank for the subsequent crop, provided you look after it with good fallow weed control – don't get lazy.

2

Diversity in rotations and varieties serves as more than just a weed or disease break. It spreads risk for every part of the season. Rain in November benefited later maturing crops and wind affected some crops/varieties more than others. It's all about risk management.

3

Seeder setup is critical to successful canola establishment, but there is more leeway when the break to the season is strong and reliable.

4

The best production and financial outcomes will result from understanding crop disease ratings, rotational risks, disease management for the local environment, and how hot weather will exacerbate or hinder disease development.

5

Balancing nutrition with crop needs on different soil types is still challenging. Soil sampling can help take some of the guesswork out of decisions.

Compiled by Claire Browne, Kelly Angel, Tim McClelland and Harm van Rees.

6

Farmers should expect greater scrutiny now and in the future as consumers demand to know what is in their food. It is important to keep good records, apply inputs according to the label and be prepared to live with the prospect of reduced marketing opportunities.

7

Hay is becoming increasingly attractive as a commodity. Before diving in, make sure you have considered what is involved in hay production and the risks. How does it compete with other work on the farm and how will weather events affect logistics and quality?

8

Armyworms were an issue and seem to be a concern where a wetter season follows a dry one (2016, 2019). Remain vigilant and know your economic thresholds for control.

9

Wind is a risk at harvest and caused significant shattering in direct-headed canola, pod loss in pulses and head and grain loss in wheat and barley. Look at harvest logistics and protect more susceptible crops or large programs through windrowing (ie. canola and barley) or consider contractors so other crops can be harvested on time.

10

Big crops in some areas this year would have exported significant volumes of nutrients. Soil and grain testing can help identify what is left behind and what may be needed for the next year.