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Issue 7: November 2014

## ***From the Chairman ....***

As this report goes to print I am sure some of you are already harvesting.

The end of season series of crop walks/ field days have all been well attended, with positive feedback from seed growers for the new Durum release Aurora.

At all sites Aurora has been holding up really well, with this tough growing season testing all crops to fill.

At Hart, sown into rye grass alongside of Mace, Aurora looked just as competitive if not slightly better.



Dr Jason Able released new Durum Aurora at Hart Field day to over 100 people at the three Durum talking slots during the day.

DBA have kindly donated 4 tonne of the new Aurora which was raffled at the four recent field walks. The lucky winners were;

- John Green at the Mid North High Rainfall walk
- Darren Schilling at the Hart Field Day
- Ted Ridgway at the Bordertown/Kaniva crop walk
- Peter Lang at the Horsham crop walk which was conducted by Dr Jason Able

Durum Growers Association thanks Durum Breeding Australia for their kind gesture and wish all the winners great success with Aurora in the future.

Seed orders are now being taken by Neville Sharpe. Orders are coming in at a steady pace, so to secure seed for the 2015 season, order soon.

All seed in bulk orders 4 tonne or over to be collected ex seed grower on agreed date. December 24th end of, off header sales, no exceptions.

All orders under 4 tonne to be collected from Manoora seed, at about \$200 tonne above bulk, off header price.

February 28th final order date for orders under 4 tonne, no exceptions.

Special mention to GRDC for their outstanding contribution towards the Durum Breeding programme, as well as to SARDI for their hands on support for the programme.

To all sponsors we acknowledge your great ongoing support, without we could not function as we do.

I wish all producers, seed growers, committee, sponsors, breeders and research workers a safe productive and happy harvest and a Festive end to a frustrating 2014.

Bring on 2015

Mark Hill

Chairman

Southern Australian Durum Grower Association

## News from the breeding program at the University of Adelaide

The field days and crop walks that were held across September and October in the southern region of Australia were well attended with many growers taking the time to come along and see the exciting research and trial results that were discussed as part of Durum Breeding Australia's (DBA) Southern Node. Of course this spring heralded the release of DBA-Aurora, officially at the Hart Field Day. The release of this variety is a good example of how your GRDC levies are being used to create better varieties for your on-farm profitability. Several growers from all these field days and crop walks have walked away with a free tonne of DBA-Aurora.

Across the various crop walks and field days, many growers, several consultants and sponsors were able to view:

- Richard Konzag's DBA-Aurora crop, which is stacked up against Saintry and Hyperno;
- Simon Goss's herbicide trial research, also at Mallala;
- DBA's Mallala field trial site on Andy Griffith's property (S3 and S4 entries). This site was sown 1<sup>st</sup> May and is looking superb. My prediction is that it will be close to the highest yielding site of all our dry-land trials this year;
- DBA's Roseworthy (RAC) field trial site (this site was one of our largest for the year, and there was considerable discussion around not only an exciting early maturing S1/S2 line (see photo on left below) but also the marker assisted selection research that we are undertaking with Professor Diane Mather's team at the Waite Campus. With any luck and pending the yield results this year, we will fast track the early maturing line into our semi-advanced yield trials next season and also fast track it through some early quality testing with Dr Mike Sissons and his team in Tamworth.



**Figure 1:** Representative plot (from 3 replicates) of UAD1202042 on the left showing anthesis is completed with pollen dehiscent, while Saintry on the right has not started anthesis at this stage (head emergence is present). Site sown 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014. Photo taken on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at RAC.

- Michael Jaeschke's crop of DBA-Aurora (for those at Hart). At that stage in the season it was looking exceptionally good given the limited rainfall.
- DBA's Wolseley field trial site on Ted Ridgeway's property (S3 and S4 entries). Given the limited rainfall at this site, there was a sense of general optimism about when looking at the health of the plots.
- Alwyn Dyer's multiplication of DBA-Aurora just outside of Kaniva. Given the limited rainfall, it was holding in well considering it was mid-October.
- Wally Meyer's DBA-Aurora stacked up against WID802. There were signs of crown rot/moisture stress close to where we inspected the paddock. This could have been exacerbated by compaction from machinery, thus preventing adequate rooting penetration. Further into the paddock there were signs that both varieties were holding on.



- DBA S4 trials at Horsham. This field day was held the day after Kaniva and Bordertown and was well attended by a new group of potential durum growers. Through the generous support of Agritech Rural in Horsham, we have also set up some crucial N management trials with Rob Launder this year. The results from these trials will hopefully bring us a step closer to ensuring we can provide some good advice to growers who want to start seeing whether durum is a good fit for them in this district.

In general terms, DBA-Aurora promises to deliver over the more recent varieties including Hyperno, Saintly, Tjilkuri, Yawa and WID802; whether in yield potential and/or quality attributes. The overall disease package of this variety is also superior to any durum variety currently commercially available in Australia. However, as with any variety, durum or not, there are always caveats. So while DBA-Aurora will not solve all the problems a durum grower faces it will be a step-change variety for the industry over the coming years. See the SADGA website for plenty of factual information across many growing areas on this new variety.

An early result from Neville Mildren's DBA-Aurora multiplication which has now been harvested is exciting; with very low screenings (~1.3%), good grain size and good protein at ~14.5%. When compared to the Yawa crop stacked up against it at Neville's (Yawa screenings ~7.6%, grain very small and protein 16%+), DBA-Aurora is looking very good.

I look forward to the harvest with our team, which is imminent. The yield results will come in, and the analysis will start. Selections will be made, and before we know it the 2015 forums will be here. That will provide us with an opportunity to reflect on a tough couple of seasons. With any luck the durum price will remain highly competitive in 2015 so that we as an industry can grow further in the southern region and garner support from new growers to try their hand with this crop. If you know of new growers interested, encourage them to come along to the forums next year where they can hear all the latest from this year's trial results and other research that has been happening with durum collaborators. Between now and then, best wishes for the harvest season and I hope to see you all next year.

Jason.



Inspecting a trial on Ted Ridgway's property at Wolseley



Simon Goss, SARDI Research Officer demonstrating the different chemicals and the effects on different varieties of crops. Left is Mark Hill, Front with the papers in hand is Simon Goss, Richard Konzag



Sponsors attending the SE/Kaniva Crop Walk

## **DURUM GRAIN MARKETERS**

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### **Seed for Sale 2015**

AURORA the new variety was released at the Hart Field Day on the 16th September 2014.

If you are interested in growing the new Variety in 2015 orders can be placed with

Neville Sharpe, Seed Manager

*Neville Sharpe*

Mobile: 0419 607 120 or P: 08 8338 7339

Fax: 08 8379 9665

Email: [njsharp@bigpond.com](mailto:njsharp@bigpond.com)

The Southern Australian Durum Growers Association Inc. would like to acknowledge and thank their sponsors

