

Tuesday 24th August 2021

Growers top the charts with hyper yielding crops

Growers from across the southern high rainfall zones have been recognised for their determination to reach high productivity goals as part of the GRDC's Hyper Yielding Crops Awards initiative.

The following award winners were announced at regional Hyper Yielding Crops (HYC) results updates where growers had the opportunity to discuss the first-year's research outcomes according to their respective regions. The following HYC awards were made based on wheat paddocks grown in the 2020 season:

SA	RESULT	GROWER	LOCATION
Highest yield	10.59 T/HA	James Fitzgerald	Hatherleigh
Highest % of Potential	10.59 T/HA (99.25% OF YIELD POTENTIAL 10.67 T/HA)	James Fitzgerald	Hatherleigh
NSW	YIELD	GROWER	LOCATION
Highest yield	7.31 T/HA	Damien Schneider	Culcairn
Highest % of Potential	6.71 T/HA (86.36% OF YIELD POTENTIAL 7.77 T/HA)	Craig Marshall	Rennie
VIC (SOUTHERN)	YIELD	GROWER	LOCATION
Highest yield	10.40 T/HA	Ben Findlay	Weatherboard
Highest % of Potential	9.40 T/HA (96.41% OF YIELD POTENTIAL 9.75 T/HA)	Will Langley	Winchelsea
VIC (NORTHERN)	YIELD	GROWER	LOCATION
Highest yield	7.58 T/HA	Jock Binnie	Bungeet
Highest % of Potential	7.58 T/HA (104.41% OF YIELD POTENTIAL 7.26 T/HA)	Jock Binnie	Bungeet
TAS	YIELD	GROWER	LOCATION
Highest yield	11.00 T/HA	Simon Burgess	Conara
Highest % of Potential	10.80 T/HA (89.33% OF YIELD POTENTIAL 12.09 T/HA)	James Clutterbuck	Hagley
WA	YIELD	GROWER	LOCATION
Highest yield	6.20 T/HA	Jon Beasley	Frankland River
Highest % of Potential	6.20 T/HA (70.29% OF YIELD POTENTIAL 8.82 T/HA)	Jon Beasley	Frankland River

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The Hyper Yielding Crops (HYC) Awards recognise growers who have the enthusiasm and clear vision to accomplish high productivity goals, through making effective agronomic management decisions, at the right time, according to their location and environment.

This awards initiative was developed as part of the Grains Research & Development Corporation's hyper yielding crops project, a four-year investment, spanning five states, which aims to push the economically attainable yield boundaries of wheat, barley and canola.

HYC project officers in WA, SA, VIC, TAS and NSW sought nominations of 10 wheat paddocks per region which in turn allowed growers to benchmark the agronomic performance of their crops compared to a regional standard.

"The awards component of the project was formed to try and build a community of interest in pushing our productivity boundaries, not just to share what went well, but also those things that perhaps didn't go so well, and utilise these learnings in a community setting," said Nick Poole, FAR Australia's Managing Director and HYC project lead. "Profitability and putting dollars into the pockets of growers is key, but equally important is the ability to benchmark and learn within a community about those agronomic levers which will assist in reaching our crop yield potentials."

Jon Midwood of TechCrop is the national Extension Coordinator for HYC and oversees the HYC Awards whilst working closely with FAR Australia in processing the data. He says the first year delivered some excellent results for growers. "We were delighted with the interest in this initial year of the initiative, and we hope to build on this participation over the remaining years of the project.

"All those who participated in the HYC Awards were presented with a report, which not only assists with identifying the different agronomic decisions made throughout the season's growing conditions, but also provides growers with the ability to closely benchmark these key decisions with other growers in their region.

"Nominations are now open for the 2021 season and we would urge growers to contact their respective project officers for more information if they would like to enter a wheat crop this season."

GRDC Grower Relations Manager, Randall Wilksch, said the outcomes achieved by the 2021 HYC Award winners in the southern high rainfall zones would encourage other growers not just in the same region but further afield to push crop yield boundaries.

"The results this year have surpassed expectations. This national investment continues to support growers who are keen to push yield to the next level in high yield potential grain-growing environments," Mr Wilksch said.

"The award winners have clearly demonstrated the kind of drive and vision that will hopefully encourage others to consider adoption of different agronomic management tactics aimed at delivering greater productivity and profitability."

"Congratulations to our inaugural HYC Award winners," said Mr Poole. "On behalf of the wider project team, I would like to add my thanks to all the growers who entered the HYC awards in our pilot season, you have certainly set the standard for the years to come."

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Details of upcoming HYC field days:

Friday 17th September, Frankland WA
Thursday 7th October, Wallendbeen, NSW
Thursday 14th October, Gnarwarre, VIC
Thursday 28th October, Millicent, SA
Thursday 18th November, Hagley, TAS

A full list of events can be viewed at <https://faraustralia.com.au/event/>

For further information on the Hyper Yielding Crops project, please visit <https://faraustralia.com.au/hyper-yielding-crops/>

For a full set of provisional Hyper Yielding Crops 2020 trials results, please visit <https://faraustralia.com.au/resource/>

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About Hyper Yielding Crops (HYC) Awards

The HYC awards, Focus Farm paddock strips and the innovative grower network involves TechCrop working with the Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation (CeRDI) at Federation University Australia, FAR Australia and four farming groups across the country; Southern Farming Systems (SFS) in Tasmania and Victoria, MacKillop Farm Management Group (MFMG) in SA, Riverine Plains Inc in NSW, and Stirling to Coast Farmers in WA. Growers, advisers and others wishing to become involved in the HYC initiative can contact their respective state project officers:

Victoria – Ashley Amourgis of SFS, aamourgis@sfs.org.au
Tasmania – Naomi Hender of SFS, nhender@sfs.org.au
SA – Jen Lillecrapp of MFMG, jen@brackenlea.com
NSW – Kate Coffey of Riverine Plains Inc, kate@riverineplains.org.au
WA – Dan Fay of Stirling to Coast Farmers, dan.fay@scfarmers.org.au
Jon Midwood of TechCrop, jon@techcrop.com.au