



In the past two weeks I have had the opportunity to cover some large sections of NSW and Queensland and have been amazed by the pasture and feed growth as well as the lushness of the summer crops in the Northern regions after extensive rains over the Christmas period. In some instances there were fences completely obscured by the lush feed growth in the paddocks, creeks were running, dams were full and sheep hard to find as they became lost in paddocks.

What a sharp contrast it was to drive back down into Central NSW, where we are slipping further into drought. Paddocks are bare, the soil is parched and once again we are in dire need of good rainfall....same old story really. Again, there are growers out there at the moment relying on the good fortune of summer thunderstorms and these are isolated and can be quite damaging.

Further to the north east around Wellington some growers managed to get a nice storm across there last week, some as much as an inch of rain, and in some areas this has come on the back of nine inches of rain over the Christmas period. This has put them in a great position for the upcoming season sowing. Now...just have to take care of those weeds...

Speaking with growers over the past week, there was much talk of swinging away from canola this season due to the high input costs and what was seen as poor prices over last harvest.

For the 2010 season AGA will be offering growers the opportunity to participate in the Cargill High Oleic Specialty Canola program. There are many marketing options available including fixed tonnage and hectare contracts. These contracts also have the added benefits of ex farm and delivered into plant options, in conjunction with Market Commercialisation and Specialty Canola premiums (AOF quality standards also apply). Base pricing is derived from the Cargill canola prices which are published daily. With convenient planting seed pick-up, deferred planting seed payment terms, flexible delivery options and premiums over conventional canola this program continues to grow in popularity with growers in NSW and VIC.

Due to the success of this program and limited seed availability, growers interested in participating in this program are urged to contact their nearest local AGA Field Merchant for further details and contract terms.

For further details contact your local Australian Grain Accumulation,
Field Merchant – Karen Cox, Parkes (02) 6861 1101