Update: September 2021
Location: Wagga Wagga, NSW

Click your way round the latest local crop protection and canola options

Local growers and agronomists in Southern New South Wales had the opportunity to see the 2021 broadacre trials at BASF's Yathella (near Wagga Wagga) Innovation Site first-hand this year with a number of dedicated field walks.

A dry start, followed by very wet seasonal conditions gave visitors the opportunity to see a variety of knockdown and pre-emergent treatments in wheat being really tested. They also had the opportunity to see BASF's new LibertyLink® canola system demonstrated as another tool against glyphosate resistant ryegrass.

Together with the in-person field walks, BASF's new virtual Innovation Site allowed visitors to make their own comparisons between the plots at Wagga Wagga – and all BASF's other Innovation Sites around the country – online. Just go to crop-solutions.basf.com.au/innovationsites or type 'BASF Wagga' into your search engine.

The selected Wagga Wagga trial site is well known to have moderate to strong levels of glyphosate resistant ryegrass present. This provided a good opportunity to demonstrate a variety of knockdown product combinations, followed by most of the premium pre-emergent herbicides currently available to Australian growers.

As BASF Area Sales Manager, Curtis Targett explains, "glyphosate resistant ryegrass remains a major long-term issue in this region of NSW and demonstrating solutions for this was our goal this season".

"Dealing with volunteer Roundup Ready® canola is another big challenge growers are facing with numerous paddocks hailed out last year between Temora and Young NSW" Curtis explains.

"With this in mind, our knockdown demonstration showed the new versatile Voraxor® herbicide sprayed over several canola varieties, all with different herbicide tolerances. Voraxor and paraquat proved to be a very effective combination with good spray coverage being key" he said.

Voraxor herbicide, at appropriate labelled rates, is also a very effective tool with both knockdown and residual activity. Curtis reports that various pre-emergent plus Voraxor tank-mix combinations all proved to be very effective, with no crop safety issues evident.

Voraxor's "grass assist" activity helped improve the levels of ryegrass control seen when paired together with a premium ryegrass specialist pre-emergent herbicide.

Curtis adds that there's been a lot of interest in the launch of the LibertyLink hybrid canola varieties into the Australian market because of their tolerance to Liberty® Herbicide (glufosinate), which will be a valuable tool in managing glyphosate-resistant annual ryegrass. The system is well proven in the Canadian market.

The online coverage of BASF's innovation sites gives anyone the opportunity to see how certain products are performing in-field compared to other industry standards.

"There's still no real substitute for being on the spot to see what's happening first-hand," BASF's Technical Services Manager Phil Hoult explains. "In the long term, though, we have some very ambitious plans to increase the digital tools we'll be offering agronomists and growers to help them interpret what's happening in the paddock. Our team here in Australia is constantly adapting the results of the company's global research to benefit local farmers and we're currently working towards launching some new smartphone technologies that can both identify crop impacts and potential threats and suggest strategies for managing them."

For more information or to visit BASF's Innovation Sites visit: https://crop-solutions.basf.com.au/innovation-sites