



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

Digital Library

Legume Logic

Grain and other field crop research

4-2000

Legume Logic Number 116

Follow this and additional works at: <https://library.dpird.wa.gov.au/newslegume>

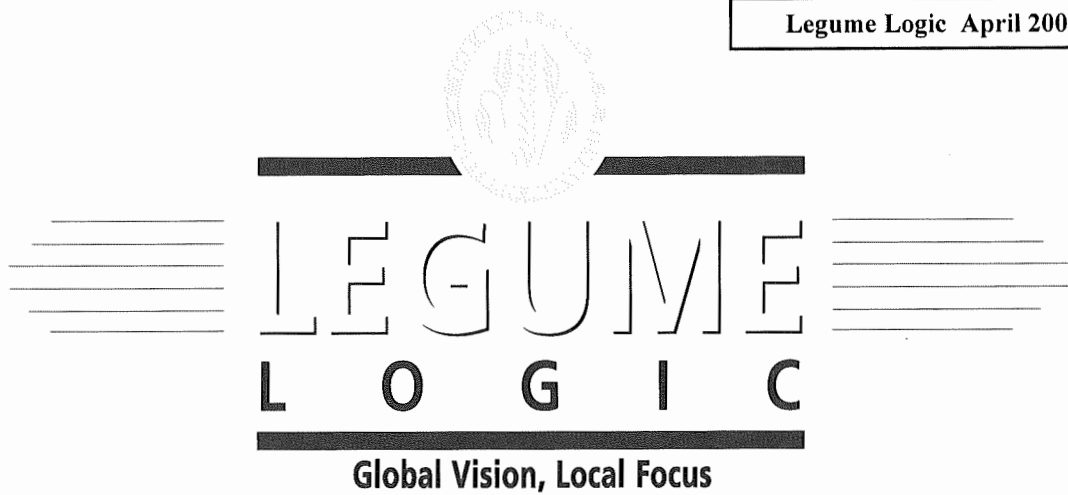


Part of the [Agribusiness Commons](#), and the [Agronomy and Crop Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

(2000), *Legume Logic Number 116*. The Grain Pool of W.A., Perth. Book.

This book is brought to you for free and open access by the Grain and other field crop research at Digital Library. It has been accepted for inclusion in Legume Logic by an authorized administrator of Digital Library. For more information, please contact library@dpird.wa.gov.au.



LEGUME LOGIC

Global Vision, Local Focus

Editor: Peter Nelson
Print Post Approved 602669/00324

Number 116

ISSN 1440-7930

GMO's and the Horseless Carriage

The weight of consumer opinion is against the use of genetically modified crops. Why - fear of the unknown, a lack of confidence in safety claims by scientists, scare tactics by the press, perhaps a poor understanding of the technology? It's probably a combination of them all.

However, the fact remains that the GMO debate will continue as both sides of the debate are argued.

So why this article? It's important for you to know what the technology is about from a layman's point of view.

Genetic engineering allows the scientist to take a single gene from one plant and insert it into another.

For example, a wild relative of wheat resistant to a strain of rust is found. Traditionally, the breeder would cross it with the domesticated plant, examine the seed for rust resistance, then cross suitable plants back to the domesticated variety to remove un-

wanted genes from the wild parent.

With genetic engineering the rust resistant gene can be removed from the wild type and inserted into the domesticated variety.

Since no unwanted genes are inserted into the domesticated variety along with it, there is no need for backcrossing and, as such, the breeding method is quicker and more precise.

It's like when the car replaced the horse. The first car was regarded as being so dangerous a person had to walk in front of it with a flag.

There is no doubt that the technology of genetic engineering is currently walking behind the flag, but it will eventually gain recognition and speed up the development of plant breeding.

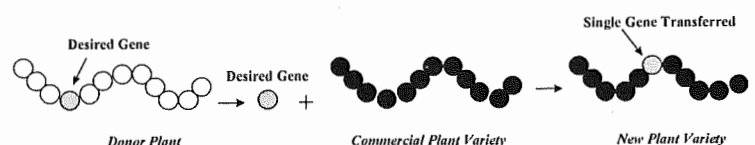
In the meantime, as marketers, we are taking advantage of our GMO free status.

Biotechnology is a Natural Extension of Traditional Plant Breeding

TRADITIONAL PLANT BREEDING



PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY



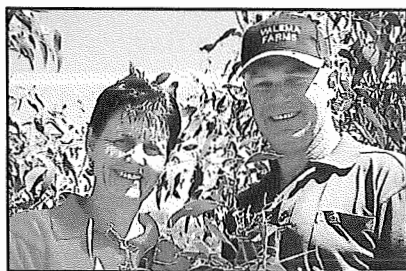
Useful Website:

<http://www.aba.asn.au>

Sustainability Under Test

Imagine it - results on the impact of landcare on your farming system available in 2100. This is the commitment Lawry and Jenny Pitman and their supporters, who are out to prove that dryland farming is sustainable in economic, environmental and social terms, have given to Western Australian agriculture.

To do this, the Pitmans have opened their 3100 hectare farm in the Corrigin Shire as a demonstration farm to show profitable farming systems must be based on, and closely integrated with, land-



Jenny and Lawry Pitman

care principles.

The land degradation problems facing the Pitmans are

similar to those of most Western Australian farmers; that is rising water tables and salinity, soil erosion due to wind and rain, hard setting soils, increasing soil acidity and a loss of biodiversity.

These problems will be addressed, solutions devised and costed for all to see so that the real costs of farming and sustainability can be appreciated.

The Pitman's farm will be open to everyone; scientists, farmers and the general public.

This is a bold experiment, especially since in recent years long term rotation trials have been abandoned. Western Australian agriculture will gain from this innovative approach to documenting the real costs of farming and sustainability.

For further information contact Jenny and Lawry Pitman on (08) 9065 7074 or John Duff, Project Manager, on (08) 9475 0753.

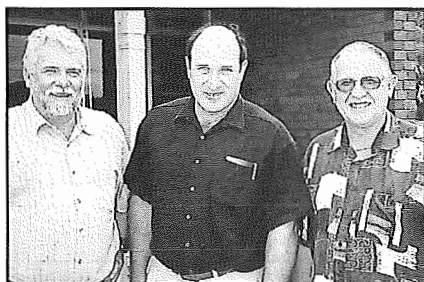
New Pulse Group

Southern pulse growers have met to form a pulse group in the Southern Agricultural Region.

To date, pulse groups have been successful in the Northern, Central and South Eastern areas, providing a grower focus for the research and development of pulse production packages in their regions.

The groups also enable better

marketing and purchasing options due to economies of scale.

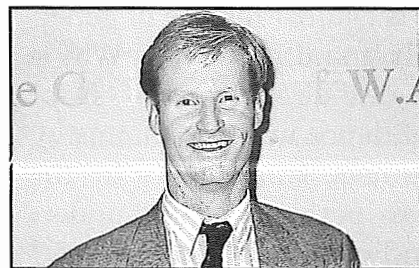


(L-R) Maurice Collins, Neil Wandell and Ken Pech

Lupin Prices Improve

Pool lupin sales are proceeding very well, with about 50 per cent of the crop contracted and priced for export markets. These are the two main factors taken into consideration when anticipating likely returns for the 99/00 Lupin Pool.

The good news is a significant improvement in soybean futures since the New Year. For instance, May 2000 soybean futures have increased about 10-12 per cent since January.



*Robert Nelson
Assistant Manager - Protein
and Oilseeds*

With regards to currency, careful management has meant that the Grain Pool has covered most of the crop over the past months. Therefore, there is limited further upside in terms of currency gains with the Australian dollar trading around 0.60/0.61 American.

At this stage the 99/00 pool indicator is \$155-165 gross per tonne basis.

Growers in southern areas who would like more information should contact Maurice Collins, Nyabing, on (08) 9829 6016 or Claire Gaskin, Jerramungup, on (08) 9835 1177.

DISCLAIMER Articles submitted, information provided and views expressed in this publication are those of the contributing authors and not those of the publishers.

No representation is given, assurance made or responsibility taken as to the accuracy, completeness, appropriateness or validity of any information contained in this publication and neither the publishers nor their offices and employees will be liable on any account whatsoever (including negligence, defamation or otherwise for any loss or damage arising as a result of the inclusion of or any reliance on any such information - except in so far as any liability cannot be excluded by law) and both contributors and readers must make and rely wholly on their own enquiries and judgement.