



2006 irrigated faba bean crop champions

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in a nutshell

- In the 2006 season there was not a lot of difference between crops in the irrigated faba bean crop competition
- Most of the entrants' crops were sown at the optimum time (1–21 May), had adequate nutrition, little if any disease, and appropriate weed control
- The distinguishing feature of the finalists' crops appeared to be podding (depth and number) and this is likely to have been influenced by moisture stress at the start of flowering and heat stress during flowering in September

The Southern NSW Irrigated Faba Bean Competition was initiated in 2005 by Pulse Australia and NSW DPI to promote best management practices for irrigated faba beans.

The keys to growing high yielding good quality faba beans has been the regular adoption of best management practices addressing:

- paddock selection
- layout selection
- good weed, insect and disease control
- spring irrigation requirements.

By benchmarking crops against others in the district, growers are able to see where improvements in their management systems can be made in order to achieve higher yields and better quality.

In 2006 the competition expanded and included crops from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, Coleambally Irrigation Area, and Lachlan and Murray valleys. The 2006 competition presentation luncheon was held on 9 November 2006 at Westend Estate, and was sponsored by Dow Agro Sciences, ECOM Commodities and ANZ Bank. The luncheon gave the industry the opportunity to showcase the best irrigated faba bean crops throughout southern NSW and announce the overall 'champion' faba bean grower for 2006.

Entries & judging

The competition is not solely a yield competition – rather it encompasses the whole production system from paddock selection right through to marketing the crop. Judging started with an in-crop field inspection, where the crop was scored out of 100 on key management factors including:

- paddock selection
- sowing and establishment
- irrigation management (spring watering/layout

suitability)

- crop protection (disease, weed control, pests)
- record keeping
- crop monitoring.

The entrants were also scored on potential yield at the time (pod load) and their marketing strategy.

There were nine entrants in the competition this year from across the Coleambally, Griffith, Hay and Finley regions. Crops were judged in late October 2006.

The finalists in 2006

The finalists in 2006 were Simon Maynard of Hay, Nick and Felicity Maynard of Hay, Paul and Alicia Moon of Yenda, Terry and Maxine McFarlane of Widgelli, Chris and Harry Morsehead of Yenda, Scott and Anita Hogan of Coleambally, Adrian Dilulio of Jerilderie, Noel Baxter of Jerilderie and Glen Baxter of Jerilderie.

Regional winners were announced for the first time in 2006, and they were:

- Scott and Anita Hogan for Coleambally region
- Adrian Dilulio for Finley region
- Terry and Maxine McFarlane for Griffith region
- Nick and Felicity Maynard for Hay region.

What distinguished the winning crops in 2006?

In the 2006 season there was not a lot separating the field. Most crops were sown at the optimum time (1–21 May), had adequate nutrition, little if any disease, and appropriate weed control. The biggest difference between crops appeared to be podding, this included the depth of podding as well as the number of pods. Two factors are likely to have played a part in this. The first is moisture stress at the start of flowering, while the second is heat stress during flowering in September.



Yields in 2006 were generally disappointing, with the majority of crops yielding around 4.0 to 4.25 t/ha. An extra spring irrigation seemed to make a huge difference as crops which received four spring irrigations as opposed to three yielded in excess of 5.0 t/ha.

The winners for 2006

First 96.05 points – Nick & Felicity Maynard, Hay

Nick and Felicity’s Farrah crop was sown on 1 May and watered up on 6 May following maize. It had a plant population of 18.5 plants/m², minimal disease, no insect damage and four spring irrigations. This champion crop had a very heavy pod load and yielded 5.33 t/ha. Nick and Felicity won a travel voucher to the value of \$1000 from Griffith Travel Scene.

Second 93.4 points - Terry & Maxine McFarlane, Widgelli

Terry and Maxine’s Fiesta crop was pre-watered early April and sown on 14 May following wheat. It had a plant

population of 17 plants/m², a good depth of pods, minimal disease, no insect damage and three spring irrigations. This crop yielded around 4.25 t/ha. Terry and Maxine won a weekend for two to see “A Day On The Green” at All Saints Estate Winery featuring Pete Murray and Tim Finn.

Third 93.15 points - Simon Maynard, Hay

Simon’s Farrah crop was sown on 5 May and watered up on 10 May following maize. It had a plant population of 19 plants/m², no grub damage, minimal disease and received three spring irrigations. This crop yielded 4.9 t/ha. Simon received dinner, at a venue of choice, to the value of \$100.

Congratulations to all winners and a big thank you to all growers who entered the competition in 2006, their associated agronomists, NSW DPI agronomists and especially to the competition sponsors. 🌻

Further information

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Figure 1: Good sized faba beans are important for yield but the competition also focussed on the whole production system from paddock selection right through to marketing the crop.



Figure 2: The biggest difference between crops in the competition appeared to be podding, including depth of podding. The difference is likely to be due to moisture stress at the start of flowering and heat stress during flowering.



Figure 3: Scott Hogan in an excellent faba bean crop. Scott and Anita Hogan were the winners for the Coleambally region, and finalists in the overall competition.



Figure 4: Competition winners for 2007, from left, Nick Maynard of Hay, Simon Maynard of Hay and Terry & Maxine McFarlane of Widgelli.