

Central Farm Club Notes

Thursday July 12, 2018 at the Camerons

Group Discussion:

Fertility and Weed Management

- Cover crop and green manure
- Manure is easy, crop rotation easiest but takes longer and still needs more nutrients
- Compost more effective but expensive equipment
 - o Compost too stinky – complaints, too wet, can get too hot
 - o Crop rotation variable results, livestock a necessity to feed silage poor crops
- Need to find niche market – 1 acre carrots = 25000\$, garlic 3\$ bulb at farmers market
- Ideas to control mustard: frequency to kill viable seeds

In-Crop Tillage

Equipment

- Diamond harrow Einbock tine, regular harrows
- Rotary hoe

Problem – eliminate weeds

- Cost of equipment
- Economic of production (example, damage to crop)

Motivation – yield economics

What impact are your weeds having on your yield?

- Can then do cost analysis on equipment
- Can be a time-consuming process: test strips, weighs samples = time @ harvest = challenge

What is missing?

- Local research
 - o Saskatchewan data may not be applicable
 - o Trial planning to optimize time spent at harvest
 - Plots
 - Controls for accurate trial
 - o Trials with different cultivation tools which may be expensive

Next Steps:

See local field trials with in- row cultivation, with different machine – or session at conference/webinars

Additional Resources

- **More info Intercropping:** <http://www.pivotandgrow.com/resources/production/intercropping/>
- **Guide to running on-farm trials:** http://ofrf.org/sites/ofrf.org/files/docs/pdf/on-farm_research_guide_rvsd.pdf
- **Research on Weed Control from Dr. Steve Shirliffe:** If you scroll down to the bottom of this link, see the bottom presentations: http://www.pivotandgrow.com/case/organic_science_cluster_call_part1/
- Click on “Seed, Seed, Seed! Managing Weeds and Reducing Yield Loss in Flax”
http://www.pivotandgrow.com/case/organic_science_cluster_call_part2/
- **Some suggestions from participants:**
 - Webinar with Steve Shirliffe
 - Organic Alberta can invest in a weigh wagon