Case Study 014 In Field Blending increases revenues for a South Australian farmer.

Introduction:

Australian farmers produce around 25 million tones of wheat per year. Farmers around the country are paid for not only quantity but for quality. The ability to blend grain in field to meet a certain grade is not something new to the industry but changing due to the ability to measure protein, oil and moisture in real time with the Model 3000H Grain Analyser. This case study show an example where a South Australian farmer used the Model 3000H in the 2017 harvest to increase revenues by blending grain in field.

Description:

Shane Jericho, Kimba, SA, found that having an on board real time grain analyser fitted to is CaseIH 8230 combine was invaluable during the 2017 harvest. By knowing what the protein content of his grain as he was harvesting meant he could make decisions in blending and segregating in the field.

During the 2017 harvest he found that the two neighbouring fields as shown in Figure 1.0, were averaging 13% protein at 3.4 t/ha in one field and 10.5% at 2.1 t/ha in the other. Knowing that the high protein producing field(1) was coming off a Vetch rotation, and that the field(2) next door was a wheat on wheat rotation probably explained the difference in protein contents in the tow fields.

Figure 1.0

Customer Comment:

This is small example of what we were able to achieve over our 2300 ha program of wheat 2017 harvest. We used 8 field bins to help us achieve the best possible blending results without compromising harvest efficiency which is a balancing act in it self.

Shane decided to blend the wheat from the two fields as this strategy would realise the greater revenues. By blending the two fields they upgraded 120 ton from ASW to H2. This increased the value of the grain from field (2) by $22/t or $47/ha. Table 1.1 breaks down the cost analysis in a non blending and blending scenario.
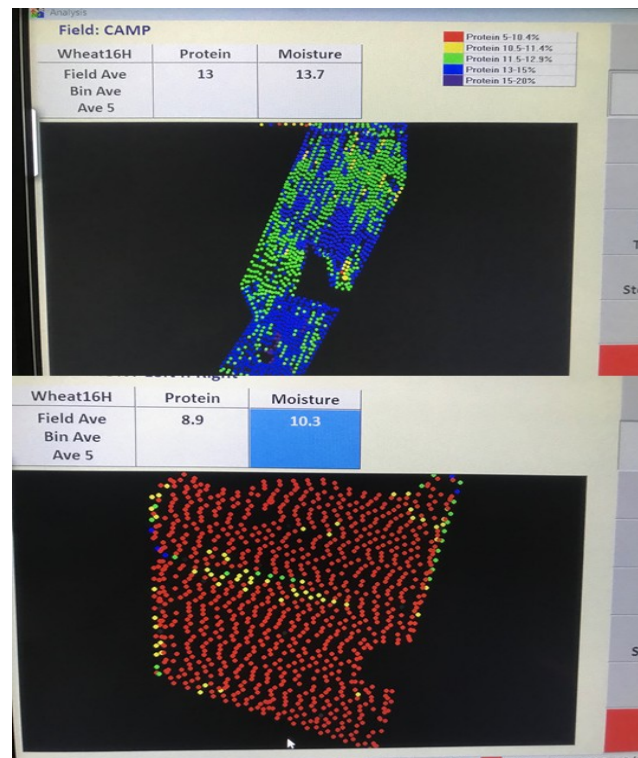
No Blending						
Pine Ridge	Ha	Tonnes/Ha	Tonnes	# Road Trains	$/Tonne	Revenue
ASW < 10.5%	56	2.14	120	2	216	$25,920.00
H1 >13%	60	3.4	204	3	257	$52,428.00
					No Blending	$78,348.00
Blending						
Pine Ridge	Ha	Tonnes/Ha	Tonnes	# Road Trains	$/Tonne	Revenue
H2 11.5 to 13%	56	2.14	266	4	245	$65,170.00
H1 >13%	60	3.4	58	1	257	$14,906.00
					Blending	$80,076.00
					Increased Revenue	$1,728.00