



20<sup>th</sup> Feb 2013

### **Pasture Cropping Practicalities**

The practicalities and multiple benefits of pasture cropping will be the focus of a pasture cropping workshop to be held on Thursday March 7 at Dadswells Bridge. Project Platypus, the upper Wimmera Landcare Network, have secured high profile pasture cropping pioneer Colin Seis to deliver the workshop. Pasture cropping is a technique of sowing cereal crops directly into native perennial pastures. It combines grazing and cropping into a single land use, where each one benefits the other economically and environmentally.

Since the early nineties, Colin has been developing and fine-tuning pasture cropping on his 2000-acre property "Winona" situated North of Gulgong on the central slopes of NSW. Pasture cropping is becoming so popular that there is a ground swell of over 1500 farmers using the technique in Australia and it is starting to be adopted in other countries in The Northern Hemisphere.

As well as managing Winona, Colin runs a farm consultancy business advising landholders on pasture cropping, native grass management, grazing management and land management.

In 2005 Colin won the Central West Conservation Farmer of the year award and in 2007 won the inaugural Carbon farmer of the year award in NSW. Colin was also the runner up in last year's Bob Hawke National Landcare Award.

Project Platypus events coordinator Bronwyn Bant said that given early March is a busy time for farmers, the workshop will start with a bacon and egg breakfast at 8.00am, giving farmers the afternoon to head across to the Wimmera Machinery Field Days, or return to work.

Ms Bant said attending the workshop was free, and that participants need to register by calling Project Platypus on 5358 4410. The Pasture Cropping Workshop will take place at 5570 Wimmera Highway, Dadswells Bridge.

Photo: Crop being harvested

Photo Caption: "Oats being harvested on Colin Seis's property "Winona" with a healthy native perennial pasture underneath the crop."

### **End of release**

#### **MEDIA CONTACT:**

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