

## Faba Beans far from failure for Griffith Irrigator

Terry McFarlane of Widgelli (near Griffith) has smashed the old adage of “Failure Beans” previously applied to the species Faba bean. His Hart Bros Seeds production crop of new Seednet variety AF05069-2 has cracked a 5.2mt average, well exceeding expectations.

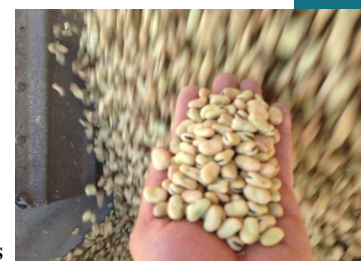
Terry was approached to bulk up the new variety, known as a professional irrigated seed grower and farmer, and very familiar to growing Faba Beans in the past. As it is very early days for the “fiesta type” variety, basic seed was limited to 1660kg, Terry decided that he could spread this over 18Ha of beds that would be irrigated to maximise the seed increase “not necessarily the per Ha tonnage”.



Terry McFarlane in his 5mt Faba Bean Crop

On 1m beds and achieving 11plants/m<sup>2</sup> (half the usually recommended plant no.), one would have thought that optimum performance could be a stretch. Exceptional management and attention to detail has resulted in a superb result for Terry, with the crop standing well all season, free of pests and disease, with 4 fungicide sprays. The resulting yield range of 4.5mt to 6.5mt/ha, mainly due to soil type, and an average of 5.2mt across the 18ha.

With a 2.5mt canola crop returning \$1250/ha, 7mt wheat crop \$1750 and his Faba Beans retuning over \$2000/ha, faba beans will be hard to beat. Furthermore the costs of production are significantly less for the Faba Beans than wheat and canola, and additional fungicides applied to the Faba Beans are negated by the N input from the pulse crop.



The market for Faba Beans has also been more stable in the last couple of years, Croker Grain are offering consistency through a number of markets, not just top grade human consumption, giving growers the piece of mind when contracting tonnages. With a market for a full grade range, and forward contracts Faba Beans will be hard to beat for an irrigated winter pulse option into the future.

For further Inquiries contact your local reseller or

**Hart Bros Seeds 02 69 247 206.**



AF05069-2 Ready to Harvest, standing very well for a 4.5-6.5mt crop