



# Comparing chickpeas and faba beans

## Tulloona

The chickpea and faba bean 2014 winter trials Darryl Bartelen planted, have given results that were markedly different compared to previous years. The results achieved this year are very encouraging and with good management he is confident results can be mirrored in future years.

Darryl explains; "On our family farm situated 70km south of Goondiwindi we began growing chickpeas in 1986 and faba beans in 1998. For a number of years we have grown chickpeas alongside faba beans in the same paddock to compare profitability and changes in yield/quality of following cereal crops. Not until 2003 when I installed a yield monitor to our harvest contractor's header were we able to correctly identify yield differences in following cereals.

Over the last five years chickpeas have consistently produced a higher return than faba beans. However the reverse occurs in the following winter crops, where yields are higher following faba beans.

Our experience is that on average both chickpeas and faba beans yield within 100kg/ha of one another. Faba beans normally cost

about \$40/ha less to produce than chickpeas, but chickpeas have been far more profitable as a result of higher prices and improved varieties with better disease packages. The five year average price for chickpeas is approximately \$450/tonne and faba beans \$320/tonne on farm. At 2 tonne/ha for both you have an immediate difference of \$250/ha more profit growing chickpeas. It is worthwhile to note that over the last two years chickpeas and faba beans have been trading close to par.

We have found that the cereal crop following faba beans yields 0.75tonne/ha more than following chickpeas and that it is often better quality. This year for example the wheat yield grown after faba beans yielded 1.4tonne/ha more. With wheat at \$300/tonne the area in which faba beans were grown has increased profit by \$420/ha. This hasn't been the case every year but with better crop management I am confident that faba beans long term will be equal to or better than chickpeas."

