

Foreword



Most worthwhile improvements in agriculture don't happen by accident.

Invariably there is a need, a need that is recognised by someone or by a group of people willing to do something about it.

Such is the case with the Grain Legume Handbook.

The industry is expanding at an unprecedented and almost unbelievable rate, with production doubling and then redoubling in the past five years.

First lupins in W.A., then peas in S.A. and Victoria and more recently in W.A. and N.S.W., while the area sown to Faba beans is also expanding, particularly in S.A.

It raises the question, where do growers turn when they need information about how to grow these crops successfully, particularly when there are more new growers than those with experience.

Two people, Dr. Allan Mayfield, Plant Protection Agronomist with the S.A. Department of Agriculture and Mr. Barry Bull, Chief Agronomist with Hi-Fert Pty. Ltd., recognised the need and more importantly were committed enough to do something about it.

With enthusiastic support from grower-directors of the S.A. Peagrowers Co-operative and essential financial backing from the same organisation, they became the catalyst needed to draw the necessary industry experience and information together.

Working with their enthusiastic committee they have solicited papers, arranged meetings, organised photographs, and obtained sponsorship from industry.

In producing the handbook, which is likely to become an industry reference for many years, the committee has highlighted the ability of the grain legume industry, the Department of Agriculture, researchers and industry to work together in close co-operation.

Such co-operation must continue if grain legume production in Australia is to achieve its true potential.

I believe the release of this handbook is sure to result in better crops and the delivery of clean, high quality grain.

Grain that Australia can market and export with pride.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E.O. Milne".

E.O. MILNE,
Chairman
S.A. United Farmers and Stockowners
Oilseed and Grain Legume Committee