



SPOTLIGHT: WHEAT IN AUSTRALIA



WHY WHEAT

WHEAT IS NUTRITIOUS!

- > Low in fat and sodium
- > High in carbohydrate & fibre
- > High in potassium
- > Lots of vitamins and minerals

USES OF WHEAT

- > Flour (bread, cakes, pasta etc)
- > Cereals (Weet-Bix, All Bran)
- > Drinks (malt, beer and more)
- > Wheat germ (add to cereals, baked foods and drinks for an extra nutritious boost!)
- > Livestock feed

ROLE IN AUSTRALIA

- > Wheat production is valued at \$1 billion in 2022-2023
- > In 2022-2023 it is expected Australia will produce 39.2 million tonnes of wheat
- > Grains (including wheat, oats, barley, rice, rye, corn, millet, sorghum and triticale) provides 170,000 jobs from farm to export.

WHEAT IN AUSTRALIA

- > Wheat was first grown in Australia in Sydney in 1788.
- > The first wheat crop didn't grow very well due to Australia's different climate and soils.
- > As more farms were established, cropping improved and Australia started exporting wheat to England in 1845.
- > From 1840 to 1860 a disease called stem rust caused lower production from the disease itself, and farmers relocated inland to areas that didn't have the disease.
- > These areas were not as suitable to grow wheat, so we needed a solution. This solution ended up being called Federation Wheat.

FEDERATION WHEAT

- > William Farrer was an agricultural researcher responsible for developing a variety (type) of wheat that was resistant to the stem rust disease.
- > Farrer combined 2 varieties of wheat, Yandilla and Purple Straw, which created a wheat that was rust-resistant but also produced a high yield.
- > This became known as Federation wheat and was distributed around Australia from 1903.
- > Federation wheat and other varieties Farrer created resulted in a big increase in wheat production providing more food and money for Australia at the time.

- > In NSW between 1897 and 1915 wheat production quadrupled!

MORE WHEAT!

We haven't stopped researching; more wheat varieties are being produced to keep our wheat production going, even looking forward 50 years. This includes drought resistance wheat and crops that can grow in higher temperatures.

