Jerdacuttup Spring Trials Day a Success  
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Over 55 people attended another jam-packed Jerdacuttup trials day recently, to see some farmer and research trials around the local district. The day was sponsored by AWB in Esperance; AWB Landmark in Ravensthorpe; and Steve Tilbrook, a director of the CBH group of companies.

The Trials tour gets bigger every year, and this year (our third year) we travelled over 100km to look at a huge variety of trials.

First up we visited West Point, where thanks to the Ryan brothers we inspected a SEPWA barley variety trial, a canola variety trial with straight varieties and variety mixes, and an Elders ryegrass mix along with some pasture mixes the Ryans had sown from seed they had harvested the previous year.

We moved on to John and Kerry Smeetons property where we looked at Ballards Seeds pasture varieties with Alosca and other inoculants. These looked pretty impressive. At the adjacent GRDC break crop/rotation trial the group are looking at best break crops prior to a wheat crop. They are using lupins, prima gland, serradella, wheat, canola and peas to see which gives the best effect for the following years wheat crop so that was a very interesting visit.

From there we visited Athertons magnificent wheat crop where we looked at differences between knife and disc machines and found that this year there was little difference.

Pasture was the next stop, with a look at Robbie Purvis fantastic ryegrass mixed pastures. The debate raged for a little while on the merits or otherwise of kikuyu in the mix, but his pastures are a testament to the good care he gives them.

We finished our day at Redmans near Hopetoun, where we visited the SEPWA wheat variety trials which were showing some clear differences. We then looked at their tillage gear which included Gessner and K-Hart stubble managers, and Yetter coulter curved disc, with double disc openers sowing.

This was followed by a very successful BBQ and windup for another full year for the Jerdacuttup Top Crop and Pasture group. Swathing is in full swing with harvest due to start any day, so the group will meet again in February to finalise all trial plans for 2007.

For any queries, please contact Julianne Hill on 98381997 or the Group President John Smeeton on 98396043.