

# Northern NSW & Liverpool Plains

Summer 2012-13

## New G33 sorghum looks promising at Doolin property

A new quicker maturity sorghum hybrid looked promising in a trial on the property of **Simon Doolin, at North Star, in northern New South Wales** last season.

Pioneer® hybrid **G33** topped the trial of experimental and commercial sorghums with a yield of 5.09 t/ha.

The yield was better than Pioneer® hybrid G22 at 4.81 t/ha, Pioneer® hybrid G56 at 4.67 t/ha and MR43 at 4.55 t/ha.

Mr Doolin said he was keen to do trials each season to compare new hybrids coming through the system against his current commercial options.

G22, G56 and MR43 were grown under commercial conditions by Mr Doolin last season, so the result from the trials provided confidence that G33 could be a good option going forward.

G33 could prove a good planting partner with G22 as it is quicker in maturity, which will suit the Doolin farming operation.

The trial last season also included some agronomic work, with a section adjacent to the yield trial comparing a 1.5 metre solid configuration against the one metre single skip row spacings used on the property.

In the comparison, G22 yielded 5.41 t/ha in the 1.5 metre solid row section compared to 4.81 t/ha in the one metre single skip.

Mr Doolin said he appreciated the work conducted between the two options and would look at putting

more of the 60 inch (1.5 metre) sorghum in this season. G22 was the best performed commercial sorghum on the property last season and has worked well for the past three years.

Mr Doolin said the sorghum was planted from September 17 to 21, although some areas needed to be replanted due to the wet, cool conditions.

He said G22 performed particularly well under the adverse early conditions.

The sorghum has been long-fallowed through from a previous wheat or barley crop and did not receive any up-front or in-crop fertiliser.

Very wet conditions during the season did leach some of the stored nitrogen from the soil causing some yellowing of the bottom leaves.

Despite the adverse conditions G22 did particularly well with average yields of just under 5 t/ha in areas.

At harvest the hybrid showed excellent standability and produced good quality grain.

"We had some hybrids fall over but the Pioneer stuff was all really good," Mr Doolin said.

The sorghum was planted at a rate of between 55,000 and 60,000 seeds per hectare and had very wet conditions throughout most of the season.

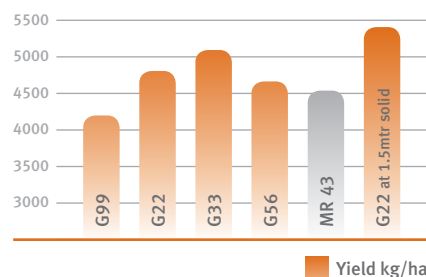
Mr Doolin said conditions were so wet that they still had a full profile of moisture in the soil at harvest and were able to plant chickpeas straight into it.

*"G33 is a very well adapted, high yielding hybrid across all environments. The hybrid has excellent height uniformity and is the shortest hybrid in the Pioneer stable."*

Ivan Calvert  
DuPont Pioneer  
Grain Sorghum Plant  
Breeder



### Simon Doolin 2011-12 single skip sorghum trial



# Grain sorghum

## Hybrid recommendations

Northern NSW										
Positioning	Walgett		Croppa Creek		Moree		Narrabri		Inverell	
Early	G33, G99	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22
Late	G33	G99	G33	G99	G33	G99	G33	G99	G33	G99
Limited moisture	G99	G56	G99	G56	G99	G56	G99	G56	G99	G56
Irrigation	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33

Liverpool Plains										
Positioning	Mullaley		Gunnedah		Spring Ridge		Premer		Coolah	
Early	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33
Late	G33		G33		G33		G33		G33	
Limited moisture	G33	G99	G33	G99	G33	G99	G33	G99	G33	G99
Irrigation	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33	G22	G33

## Clean sweep for G22 sorghum in Coolah Sorghum Competition

Pioneer® hybrid **G22** grain sorghum won first, second and third prizes in the 2012 Coolah Sorghum Competition with **Tom Dunlop**, of 'Munna', **Coolah** taking first place.

Mr Dunlop said it was the first year he had tried G22 and had decided to plant it after good performances in the district the previous season.

In excellent seasonal conditions, the G22 produced an average yield on the property of 9.27 t/ha.

"It was phenomenal," Mr Dunlop said.

The G22 was planted alongside MR.Buster and MR.Striker sorghum with all of the crops sown on October 27 but didn't germinate until rainfall was received on November 20.

When the rainfall did eventuate it was accompanied by lower temperatures with the sorghum needing to establish in less than ideal conditions.

"G22 looked the best in terms of vigour," Mr Dunlop said. "Its cold tolerance helped it for sure and it seemed to do a lot better than the other hybrids."

After the initial dry period, conditions were much better with the sorghum making the most of the season.

The high yields of G22 were accompanied by good agronomic traits including excellent drydown.

"G22 came in very quickly and had good drydown," Mr Dunlop said. "It was good to harvest and the standability was exceptional. It also had a nice open head which we like." He also said G22 was very even.

Mr Dunlop said the success of G22 on the property meant there would be a lot more planted next season.

## Hybrid characteristics

Agronomic Description	G33	G99	G56	G22
Maturity	Q/M	M	M	M/L*
General appearance	8.0	7.5	7.5	8.0
Head exertion	6.5	7.0	8.0	6.5
Height uniformity	8.5	7.5	8.5	9.0
Head fusarium	5.5	6.5	8.0	6.5
Stress lodging	8.0	8.0	7.5	8.5
Midge resistance	6	5	5	4
Staygreen	mod	low-mod	low	mod
Tillers	6.5	6.0	4.5	6.5
Grain size	very good	excellent	good	good
Cold tolerance	7.0	7.0	7.0	8.0

1 = low/poor observation of trait 9 = high/strong observation of trait

\* Note: the M/L maturity in this case is regionally specific to the Liverpool Plains



Tom Dunlop, Coolah

## Premer Sorghum Competition won with new hybrid option

**Scott Chambers** of 'Kawarra', **Bundella** on the Liverpool Plains took out the Premer Sorghum Competition with a hybrid grown for the first time on the property.



Scott Chambers, Bundella

Mr Chambers said he was impressed with the performance of Pioneer® hybrid **G22**.

"I would have put it in earlier if I'd known how good it was," he said.

The crop of G22 was planted quite late in the season on December 20 and followed a large amount of wet weather.

"G22 looked magnificent," he said. "It had good head size and good head exertion. It flowered evenly."

A late frost did take the edge off the result and the G22 produced a yield of 6 t/ha when it was harvested in May.

"It's certainly a handy variety," Mr Chambers

said. "There are a few people around here that had 9 to 10 t/ha from it."

Mr Chambers said the cold start ability of G22 was also a key to it being grown on the property in the future.

"Cold tolerance is a factor to get it up and going early."

G22 was also included on the early plant and produced an average yield of 6.5 t/ha.

It dried down well and was harvested without the need to desiccate.

"We need something that can handle the tough times as well as the good times. G22 is certainly one that can fit into our program."

# Grain sorghum

## Bingara grower wins G series quad bike competition

The timing could not have been better for **Bingara** grower, **Graham Hosegood**, who won the Pioneer® brand G series Honda Quad bike competition.

“We had an order in for another bike because our others were finished and I had to ring them and tell them I'd won one,” he said. “We were absolutely thrilled.”

The quad bike was part of a promotion last season and was open to any farmer who had purchased Pioneer® brand G series grain sorghum seed over that time.



Laila and Graham Hosegood

Mr Hosegood, who farms in northern New South Wales, between Bingara and Delungra, said he had been encouraged to enter by the local Pioneer representative, Sam Gall.

He said the entry was soon forgotten and it was a bolt out of the blue when the phone call came.

Eligibility for the competition came with the purchase of Pioneer® hybrid **G22** sorghum, which was sown to just under 300 acres on the property last season.

It was the first time G22 had been sown and replaced the Pioneer® hybrid G56 sorghum that had been grown by Mr Hosegood the previous season.

“G56 was a really good variety but I think G22 surpassed it.”

Yields across the area averaged out at just under 5.0 t/ha, which is a very good result for the conditions and season.

The G22 was planted to heavy black soils with much of the country contoured and quite steep.

Sorghum was long fallowed through from a previous wheat crop and planted in November at the sowing rate recommended by the agronomist.

Mr Hosegood said the G22 stood well throughout the season and was not sprayed out for harvest.

He said there wasn't any need for insecticide or disease sprays on the crop throughout the season, although some other hybrids in the area did have an application to control ergot.

Standability of G22 was very good and it harvested easily to produce good heavy grain.

Mr Hosegood said the planting date in November was later than anticipated but they had to rely on contractors to sow the seed for them.

He said, with that in mind, he was looking forward to trying some of the new Pioneer® hybrid G33 sorghum this season.

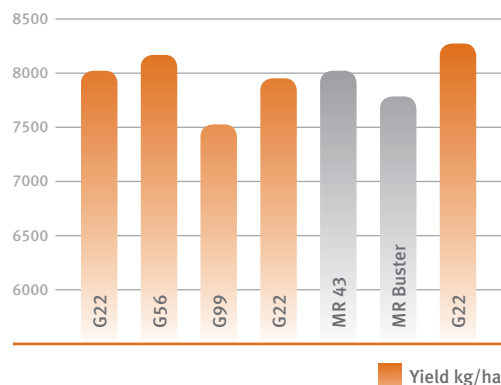
The quicker maturity of G33 allows it to adapt better if the planting date is delayed because of outside influences.



**WINNERS  
OF HONDA  
QUAD BIKE**

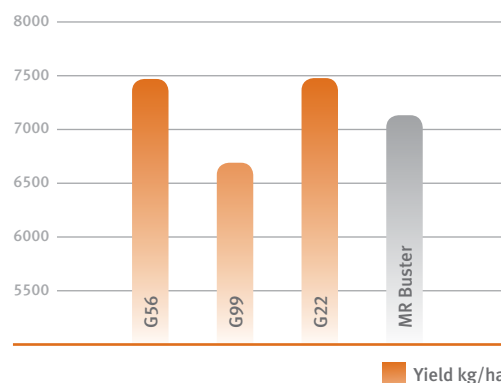
Graham and Grace Hosegood with Pioneer ASM Sam Gall

## Ash Lush 2011-12 dryland sorghum trial



Ash Lush, Gooqli

## Simon Thompson 2011-12 dryland sorghum trial



Simon Thompson, Bundella

# Grain sorghum

## Sorghum survives very wet conditions at Inverell



Harry Moore, Inverell

The wettest conditions in 60 years challenged, but didn't beat, sorghum planted on the property of **Harry Moore** at 'Lorrimer', **Inverell**.

Mr Moore said a neighbour who had been taking rainfall totals for many years said it was the wettest summer since the 1950s and the conditions made it very challenging for the crops.

He said the property is livestock-based, but he planted Pioneer® hybrid **G22** sorghum as an opportunity crop in mid-November.

Some 430 acres of sorghum went in at an estimated planting rate of 65,000 seeds per hectare and was immediately hit with three inches of rain.

The wet weather continued through the summer with the weaker, lighter country actually producing better yields than the heavier country due to the conditions.

Mr Moore said the G22 produced an average yield of 4.2 t/ha across the crop.

"It stood up really well," he said. "We didn't have any issues with lodging. The heads were also quite large."

G22 was recommended by a local agronomist and impressed him with its performance in the adverse conditions of the year.

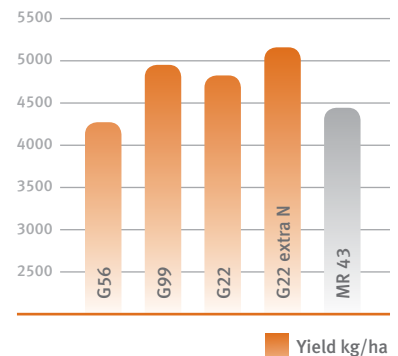
As well as the commercial block, G22 was also included in a Pioneer Product Advancement Trial and rated alongside a range of existing and experimental hybrids.

"G22 went as well as any of the others in the trial," Mr Moore said. "It looked good."

Yields in the trials were between 4.0 and 5.2 t/ha, with the highest yield of 5.17 t/ha recorded from a strip of G22 in a fertiliser comparison section.

Pioneer® hybrid G99 also performed well at 4.94 t/ha.

### Harry Moore 2011-12 dryland sorghum trial



## Sorghum thrives through very wet conditions at Inverell

Sorghum produced a good result despite extremely wet conditions on the property of **Rowan Butler** at **Inverell**.

Mr Butler said the sorghum last season was planted on a full profile of moisture and many areas remained waterlogged for much of the season.

"It was too wet a year," he said.

Despite the less than favourable conditions, Mr Butler did get very good results from Pioneer® hybrid **G22** which produced good yields over a variety of country.

He said G22 had a good strike and established well.

The entire sorghum crop produced an average yield of approximately 5 t/ha with the G22 consistently yielding between 6.2 to 7.4 t/ha.

Mr Butler said the sorghum was planted in October into 75 cm row spacings at a rate of 2.5 kg/ha.

The seasonal conditions were wet through until grain fill and little rain was received through until harvest.

"G22 holds its head well," Mr Butler said. "You wouldn't have to worry about it shelling out."

He said G22 had good-sized heads and produced plump, healthy grain.

"It was a good result despite the very wet conditions," he said.



Rowan Butler, Inverell

## Dryland sorghum success at Rowena

A crop of sorghum that was initially scheduled for irrigation but did not receive any waterings produced an excellent result on the 'Dundee' property of **Bernie Beirhoff** at **Rowena**.

The property is situated between Burren Junction and Cryon, west of Wee Waa and Narrabri and sorghum is planted in a range of situations each season.

Mr Beirhoff said they did not have enough water early in the season to fully irrigate a cotton crop in the strip and so they initially planned to leave it fallow over the summer.

He said when good rainfall was received in November and December they made a decision to plant sorghum as a late plant option.

"It was planted at the end of December," he said.

The sorghum consisted of Pioneer® hybrid **G22** and Pioneer® hybrid **G99**, with both options being grown on the property for the first time.

Mr Beirhoff said he had not grown Pioneer® brand sorghum for some time, but was particularly impressed with the result from G22.

"G22 was absolutely brilliant," he said. "I was really pleased with it."

The G22 sorghum produced an average yield of 6.92 t/ha in an excellent result, particularly given the location was so far west of the highway and the crop was grown as a dryland option.

The crop was sprayed out with Roundup and demonstrated very good standability, even when rain was received prior to parts of the paddock being harvested.

G22 produced grain of a good red colour which was all graded at Sorghum 1.

Mr Beirhoff said he was very impressed with the look of the crop throughout the season.

"I haven't seen sorghum so even," he said. "It was very uniform."



Bernie Beirhoff, Rowena

## Hybrid recommendations

Northern NSW				
Positioning	Stockfeed	Processing	Silage	Clearfield®
Dryland	32P55, P1813-IT, P2080, P1467	32P55, P2080	32P55, P1813-IT	P1813-IT
Irrigated	32P55, P1813-IT, P2080, P1467	32P55, P2080	P2307, 32P55, P1813-IT	P1813-IT
Liverpool Plains				
Positioning	Stockfeed	Processing	Silage	Clearfield®
Dryland	34N43, 32P55, P1813-IT, P2080, P1467	32P55, P2080	32P55, P1813-IT	P1813-IT
Irrigated	34N43, 32P55, P1813-IT, P2080, P1467	32P55, P2080	P2307, 32P55, P1813-IT	P1813-IT

## Hybrid recommendations

Agronomic description	P2307	P2080	P1813-IT	32P55	P1467	34N43	34N41	P1419E
Type	Silage	Feed, processing	Feed (Clearfield®)	Feed, processing	Feed	Feed	Waxy	Waxy
CRM	123	120	118	114	114	110	110	114
Grain yield for maturity	7	7	9	9	9	9	9	8
Husk cover	9	8	8	7	6	7	7	6
Plant height	9	7	7	7	8	4	4	7
Staygreen	8	7	8	8	7	5	5	
Cob rot resistance	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Drought resistance	7	7	8	8	8	7	7	7
Silage yield for maturity	9		8	8		8	8	
Northern leaf blight	9	5	7	7	6	5	5	4

## Success with first attempt at corn at Edgeroi

A first attempt at corn proved to be very successful last season for **Alex Murray** at Tarlee, **Edgeroi**.

Mr Murray said they planted just over 100 hectares of corn in September last season and were very pleased with a yield of more than 7 t/ha across the area.

He said the yield was more than anticipated, particularly because the crop was sown in a single-skip configuration (two rows in, one row out) to fit in with the machinery.



Alex Murray, Edgeroi

There were also some establishment issues as a result of wet conditions and planting into stubble from the previous winter crop.

“It was a fairly uneven soil type,” Mr Murray said.

The corn area was made up of Pioneer® hybrid **31G66** and the new Pioneer® hybrid **P1813-IT** with both performing well under the conditions.

“There didn’t seem to be a great deal of difference between the two.”

Mr Murray said corn was planted for the first time because there was a good moisture profile and the figures on the crop looked good.

It worked in well as a planting partner to cotton because it was able to be sown earlier, and also harvested earlier, in the season.

Mr Murray the crop received some 16 inches of rainfall just as it was drying down, and he was surprised by the way it continued to stand through the severe conditions.

“It didn’t seem to affect the quality at all,” he said.

At the same time other summer crop options were badly affected by the rain.

The corn was harvested and quickly rotated into a winter crop to take advantage of the stored moisture.

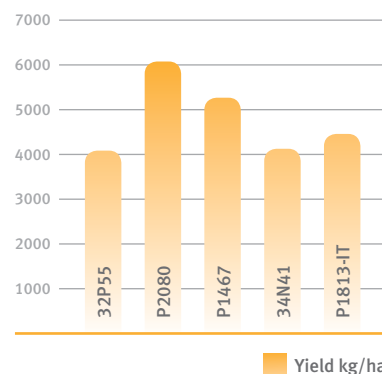
Mr Murray said corn has a good fit because it could be planted early and have any fertiliser and herbicide applications conducted at the same time.

“It’s done and dusted before we plant cotton and harvested well before the cotton.”



Peter Newton, Gurley

## Peter Newton 2011-12 dryland corn trial



## Success with first crop of corn at Mullaley

A first attempt at corn proved to be very successful for Lambrook Pastoral at **Mullaley**, east of Gunnedah.

Cropping manager, **James Vince**, said they had not grown corn before but had a 200 acre area that had issues with the Johnson grass weed.

He said they decided against mungbeans and sunflowers and investigated using an herbicide tolerant corn hybrid in the paddock.

Pioneer® hybrid **P1813-IT** corn was chosen after hearing about it at a summer crop preview in the lead-up to last season.

“It was an IT variety and seemed to yield as well as normal corn and could also have some potential for other markets,” Mr Vince said.

“I did some budgets on 5 t/ha at \$250 per tonne,” he said.

The corn price dropped with the initial tonnages sold at an average of \$210 per tonne, but the average yield was much higher than budgeted, at 7 t/ha.

“It could well be close to \$1000 per hectare return,” Mr Vince said.

He said as well as producing the high yield, the herbicide Lightning could also be used as a post-emergent option on the crop to control Johnson grass.

“Lightning did an absolutely magic job on the Johnson grass,” he said.

He said the crop was planted on September 22 at a rate of 36,000 seeds per hectare and had an excellent season.

The corn also had the potential to yield much higher with the yield map from the header showing parts that had been double-planted produced results much higher than the paddock average.

The P1813-IT was harvested from March 24 onwards and produced a very clean sample.

Mr Vince said test weights were very high at around 82 kilograms per hectolitre in an excellent result.



James Vince, Mullaley

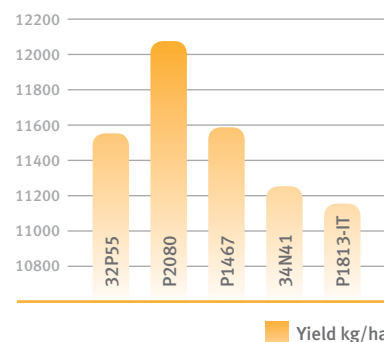
The grain was sold into the racehorse, dairy and pet food industries.

“All round it’s been a positive experience for us,” he said.

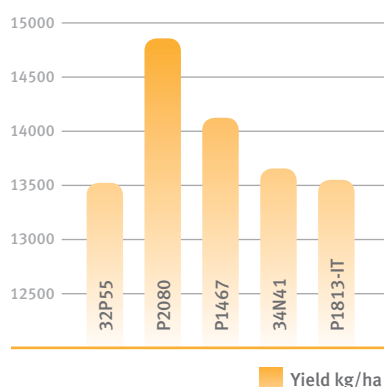


Andrew Pursehouse, Breeza

### Pursehouse Farms 2011-12 irrigated corn trial



### Long Acres 2011-12 irrigated corn trial



Harvesting corn at Long Acres, Carroll, East of Gunnedah

## New corn hybrid trials well at Killara Feedlot

A new silage corn hybrid grown for the first time at Killara Feedlot at **Quirindi** on the Liverpool Plains last season produced some outstanding results in comparison to existing options.

Killara Feedlot cropping manager, **Steve Martin**, said they grew the new Pioneer® hybrid **P2307** as a planting partner to their traditional silage corn which was the Pioneer hybrid **31H50**.

He said they had reliable results from 31H50 over many years but always put in another hybrid as a risk management tool.



Steve Martin, Quirindi

This season P2307 filled that gap and impressed with its strong growth, height and yields over the season.

“It looked really showy and was a foot higher in the tassel than 31H50,” he said.

Corn was grown under irrigated conditions and included two blocks that were also treated with effluent from the feedlot and produced higher yields.

The best block average on the property last season was a 17 hectare area of P2307, grown

with effluent irrigation, which produced an average yield of 26.91 DM t/ha.

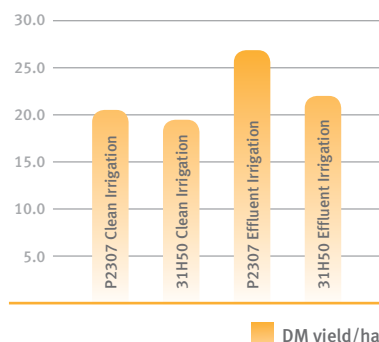
Another block grown under the same conditions was made up of 33 ha of 31H50 and recorded an average yield of 22.04 t/ha.

Both hybrids were also grown under straight irrigation conditions with P2307 performing better, with an average yield of 20.47 DM t/ha compared to 31H50 at 19.44 DM t/ha.

Mr Martin said it looked as though P2307 would

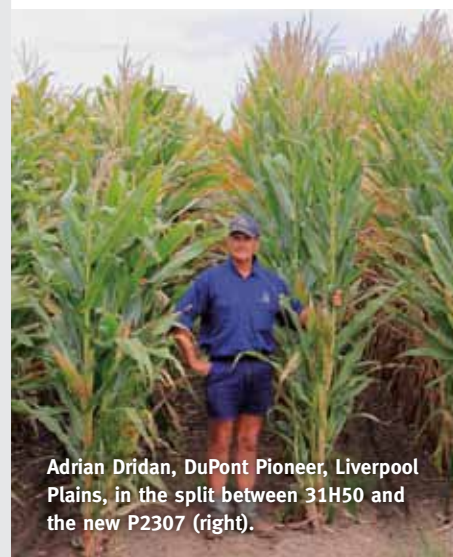
*A new silage corn hybrid grown for the first time at Killara Feedlot at Quirindi on the Liverpool Plains last season produced some outstanding results in comparison to existing options.*

## Killara Feedlot silage corn 2011-12 dry matter yield/ha



What does it all mean?

Take a steer average weight of 350 kgs at 3% intake = 10.5 kgDM/ha/day intake. So at 4870 kgsDM/ha more that equals 455 more steer days/ha from the P2307.



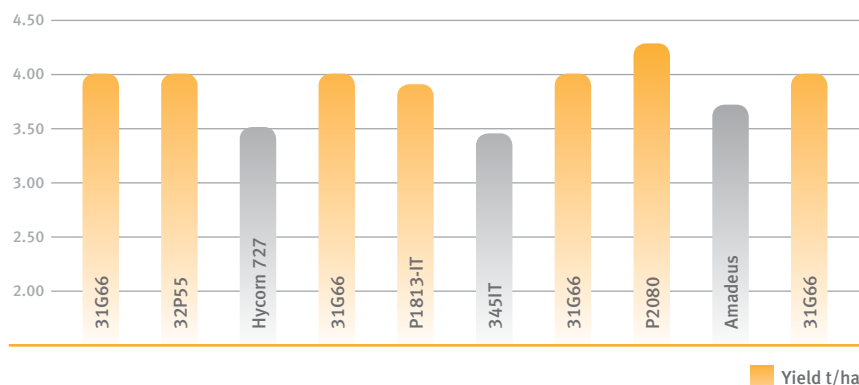
Adrian Dridan, DuPont Pioneer, Liverpool Plains, in the split between 31H50 and the new P2307 (right).

eventually replace 31H50 in the market place, and, going on last years' result, this would not be of any concern.

He said the corn silage is all placed into pits and used as part of the ration for the Killara Feedlot cattle.

“The maize silage makes up 12 per cent of the ration with the remainder made up of steam flakes, barley, wheat and roughage,” Mr Martin said.

## Buy Smart Ag independant corn trial – Paul & Lisa Slack ‘Malanganee’ 2011-12



Paul Slack, Terry Hie Hie

Many thanks to Paul and Lisa for hosting the trial again. This crop experienced dry stress for 5 days in November at the commencement of tassling to be followed by substantial waterlogging and denitrifying for the following six weeks. A good result for Pioneer® hybrid P2080, a potential grit hybrid while 32P55 proved its equality with 31G66 again.

# Forage sorghum

## Hybrid recommendations

Hybrid	Beef, cattle, grazing	Hay	Pit silage	Sheep & Dairy	Cold Start & Fast Feed	Standover feed	Features
Mega Sweet	1		2		2	1	Grain-bearing, flexibility of management
Betta Graze	2	1		1	1		Quick regrowth, quality, thin stem
Graze-N-Sile			1				High grain content, quality



Paul King and Sandy Munro of 'Weebollabolla' Moree with their dryland crop of Pioneer® hybrid Graze-N-Sile that was chopped for silage producing 27 t/ha in 2011.



NORTHERN NSW & LIVERPOOL PLAINS

**Sam Gall**  
DuPont Pioneer  
PO Box 201  
Gunnedah NSW 2380  
Mob: 0428 729 867  
Email: sam.gall@pioneer.com



NORTHERN NSW

**Bruce Crosby**  
Bruce Crosby Agricultural Services  
PO Box EM86  
Moree East NSW 2400  
Mob: 0428 526 010  
Email: bcrosby6@bigpond.com



LIVERPOOL PLAINS

**Adrian Dridan**  
PO Box 146  
Gunnedah NSW 2380  
Mob: 0458 441 777  
Email: pioneeronthelains@hotmail.com

[www.pioneer.com](http://www.pioneer.com)

