



a 'Round The Traps'

February 2019

STRZELECKI AWARD WINNERS

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STRZELECKI AWARD

Carbon Systems Agronomy



FERTI-TECH

Sir Paul Edmund Strzelecki
(1797-1873) Australia's First
Carbon Systems Agronomist

From 1839 – 1843 Count Strzelecki took assays of minerals and soils from high and low fertility farms and was the first to discover that the key determinant of soil productivity, nutrient availability and moisture holding capacity was the volume of Organic Matter - as Carbon. With this Award we celebrate the achievements of Strzelecki and the Agriculturalists who emulate his wisdom.

Sir Paul STRZELECKI
Lake Jindabyne
Monument; NSW
Australian Explorer,
Scientist, Geologist
& CSA Soil Pioneer



2018 STRZELECKI AWARD – DJ & PA Bellinger

The results are in; the Strzelecki has gone back to Victoria! (Mallee) Congratulations to Darren and Matt farming at Echunga Road HOPETOUN VIC for their exceptional Hay Result; ongoing Soil WUE (Water Use Efficiency) and Yield improvements. Several contenders for this years' award achieved the CSA-style 'Dry Survivor' statistics of 110-130mm growing season rainfall with 2-2.5 Tonne Yields in Barley and Wheat. Most only had 20-35mm Fallow Rain prior; just like Darren and Matt (who also achieved the 2.25 averages with 2.5 tops in the grenade variety wheat). So, we had a sizeable group all vying for the Strzelecki as the CSA Liquid Inject dustbowl 'Dry Survivors' **BUT**; – when it came to the HAY the boys from Hopetoun totally stood out. Around 200 Hectares all baled up at an average of 3.85 Tonne to the Hectare on 126mm Fallow and Growing Season Rainfall. With rainfall through the season being light and patchy; the water use efficiency for that 'biomass' result is all-the-more impressive. We already expect the CSA Programs in cereals to deliver excellent WUE and the plants to convert to milk filled heads when the time comes but when the only measure of success is going to be a **QUALITY BIOMASS TONNAGE** in a drought; only a remarkably well-conditioned SOIL can deliver the 'grow-zone' needed for roots to manage that unrelenting moisture stress. A clear case of **"Because I Farm my Soil is Better"**. When receiving the 'Strzelecki' Darren highlighted the important role played by CSA Farm Advisor and Agronomist; Greg Dearman. Well done to you all; truly a great result from a sincere and hard-working farming team!

WUE the CSA WAY

Right from the start – Note the big difference in the WUE formulas

Standard WUE (kg/ha/mm)
Crop Yield (kg/ha) / Water Supply mm (= Stored Water mm + Growing Season Rainfall mm - Water Loss Factor mm)

CSA WUE (kg/ha/mm)
Crop Yield (kg/ha) / Fallow Rain mm (3 months prior to month of Sowing) + **Growing Season Rainfall mm** (month of Sowing to month of Haying Off inclusive)

The CSA WUE Formula does not allow for a "Water Loss Factor" because there is no practical, reliable, consistent or honest way to ever get that right! Think about it! How the hell can you know what your evaporative loss is across all your paddocks on your farm. Year after Year for accurate comparison with anyone else either! CSA WUE can't be gamed; and it can always be verified independently; and it makes sense! Ask Ferti-Tech for a copy of the CSA WUE Brochure and get some reliable year on year data!