

**PROJECT:**

Investigating double break (or stacked rotation) options ELF00001-A

**BIO:**

**Danielle England, AgInnovate.** I work across WA with grower groups, agronomists, farm business consultants, researchers and farmers to deliver development and extension activities around mixed farming. For me there is nothing better than standing in a paddock talking about pastures!  
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**EXTENSION ACTIVITY:**

Research papers in the Crop & Pasture Science (Volume 66 Number 6 2015) were reviewed during 2016 to look at the role of double-break crops in low, medium and high rainfall areas of WA. The results and findings of the research papers were summarised in a draft report for the Kwinana East RCSN, with a smaller publication produced to highlight the benefits of double break crops in the long-term rotation.

**KEY POINTS:**

- New legume crops (and higher prices) give renewed break-crop options for farmers in the WA Wheatbelt.
- Soil type, soil acidity and rainfall will all influence the success or failure of a break crop. The biggest determinant of which break crop to grow is soil pH.
- If managed correctly, double-breaks can give up to 3 years of additional wheat years in a long-term rotation
- As a rule of thumb, double-break crops provide more benefits in cropping rotations where average wheat yields are expected to be below 1.7t/ha and/or during times of low wheat prices.

**FURTHER WORK REQUIRED:**

- The report should be reviewed after the results of the current double break (or stacked rotation) trials are published.