

New Guinness world record for highest wheat yield

AT A GLANCE...

- Location – Paddock 15, Wakanui, Canterbury, New Zealand.
- Yield – 17.398 tonnes per hectare (6.93 tonnes per acre).
- New Zealand farmers harvest approximately 400,000 tonnes of wheat each year.
- Wheat is used to produce high quality ingredients for the food industry in New Zealand and contributes to millions of dollars in export revenue.

ERIC Watson from Ashburton, New Zealand has taken out the Guinness world record for the highest wheat yield for the second consecutive time. Eric produced an incredible 17.398 tonnes per hectare wheat crop, beating his previous record crop grown in 2017 of 16.791 tonnes per hectare.

On average, irrigated wheat yields in New Zealand produce around 12 tonnes per hectare, demonstrating how remarkable the new record is – an achievement admired by the wider industry, and providing insights into innovations for future growth.

Eric was thrilled with the result as he strives to continually improve and make advancements to his yields and farming operation.

“We are very proud to have achieved such a result. The Guinness world record is a nice recognition of our hard work and new innovations we’ve put in place. While we were thrilled with the record result in 2017, we saw ways in which we could make improvements and achieve an even higher yield,” said Eric. “By trying new cultivars, switching to liquid nitrogen and monitoring plant health more regularly we were able to achieve another incredible result.”



Eric Watson (left) and Bayer’s David Weith in the new world record yielding wheat crop.

Because of the high wheat yields we can grow on our farm we are pleased if we see yields increase year-on-year by 100 to 200 kilograms per hectare. So to beat my last crop by almost 600 kilograms per hectare exceeded even my hopes” said Eric.

Planted in April 2019 and harvested on February 17, 2020, the wheat variety is Kerrin, bred by KWS and supplied by Carrfields Grain and Seed. The grain will likely be used for feeding New Zealand’s beef or dairy herd.

Eric worked closely with Bayer Crop Science for both of his records receiving agronomy advice and using a range of their crop protection herbicides and fungicides.

Bayer Regional Business Manager for mid and south Canterbury David Weith said the latest Guinness world record shows New Zealand is an important part of the global arable market and puts the country at the forefront in developing farming techniques and technologies that can be utilised by other farming nations to feed the world.

“We are delighted to see another Guinness World Record come out of New Zealand and to have contributed to this incredible result,” said David.

“Bayer is focused on improving crop yields through developing innovative products and crop management solutions. Our aim is to assist New Zealand to sustainably become the highest yield producing country in the world.”

The record attempt was a team partnership with PGG Wrightson Rural Supplies, Yara Fertilisers, SGS, Davis Ogilvie and Hill Laboratories in particular, working alongside Bayer to help Eric achieve his fantastic result.

For more information please visit www.bayer.co.nz



Harvesting the record wheat crop which tipped the scales at more than 17 tonnes per hectare.