

## **How effective is a field day for technology transfer in integrated crop-livestock systems with dual-purpose wheat?**

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### **Introduction**

The use of Field Days as a tool for technology transfer in agriculture is widely known and used, as Miller and Cox (2006) have pointed out. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this kind of method for Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems (ICLS) using dual-purpose wheat (DPW), a survey was conducted in one of the largest field days on Rio Grande do Sul (RS) state, at the Librelotto Farm in Boa Vista das Missões, RS. It was also needed to understand the profile of the attendees at the event. We present in this paper the results of our findings.

### **Material and Methods**

The Librelotto Farm field day was chosen for this research for two reasons: a) it is a big field day, with approximately a thousand visitors each year; b) the importance that the organizers place in the DPW. The survey was conducted in the 2013 and 2014 field days, using both closed and semi-structured questions. Only farmers were interviewed, and only one questionnaire per farm. Descriptive statistics were used, as well as content analysis for the semi-structured questions. This led to 164 farms being surveyed in 2013, and 160 in 2014, but with 140 and 138 valid questionnaires in each year, respectively.

### **Results and Conclusions**

In 2013, approximately 77% of the farmers said that they use integrated systems, and 74% in 2014. Most farms use the soybean (summer) - milk production system, as well as dual-purpose wheat (68.6% and 56% in each year, respectively). In order to estimate if this practice is effective, the respondents had to already have visited the event in previous years. The amount of people that already went to that particular field day was close to 58% in 2013, and 35% in 2014. Of those, 89% in 2013 and 83% in 2014, use some kind of technology that they learned about it, in this particular event. The technologies that were most cited were crop rotation, pasture cultivars and management technics. The users of DPW use it mostly for pasture (55.2% in 2013 and 67.5% in 2014), followed by pasture and grain (42.7% and 29.9%), and finally only grain production (2.1% and 2.6%).

Although the study was able to indicate that the Librelotto Farm field day is highly effective in technology transfer of ICLS, it was not possible to estimate if DPW has any kind of differentiation if compared to other forms of technology in this regard.

### **References cited**

Miller and Cox (2006) Journal of Extension.

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