



Media release

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## **South Island farmer to break Guinness Book of Records wheat yield**

A Gore farmer is set to break the Guinness Book of Records Wheat Yield tomorrow thanks to the technical support and encouragement from Ballance Agri-Nutrients.

Mike and Margaret Solari are targeting a wheat yield of more than 15.015 tonnes/ha on March 16. Twelve months of intensive crop management and planning will finish when the wheat is harvested with two JPs on hand to witness the yield. This will be the Solaris' third attempt at breaking the record after drought and excessive rain affected the previous two crop attempts.

Solari says he is feeling confident about this year's Savannah winter wheat crop after a very favourable 12 months of growing conditions and sponsorship involvement from Ballance Agri-Nutrients.

"I am very thankful to the team at Ballance for their ongoing support. After my previous two attempts at breaking the record I was feeling discouraged, and if it wasn't for Ballance's continued confidence in me I probably wouldn't have taken part.

"Ballance's involvement this year has meant that I have been able to utilise resources and technical advice such as in depth soil testing that I would otherwise not have had access to. I am very grateful for their assistance and encouragement to try again - third time lucky, I think."

Ballance Agri-Nutrients Technical Sales Representative for Gore Bruce Allan says Ballance decided to sponsor Mike because of how close he has come in the past. They wanted to do all they could to support him at another attempt to beat the current record.

"We've had a very long term working relationship with Mike, and it's extremely satisfying helping him to achieve his goal. Mike was reluctant to enter again this year, but all he needed was a little encouragement – we believe he has a great chance of cracking the record this time.

"The soil and climate conditions in the South are ideal for wheat growing but we would like to think that we have maximised this with the help of our technical expertise and Mike's excellent crop management practices."

The Savannah winter wheat crop will be harvested on March 16 at 1pm with the final weight to be determined at 8pm that evening. Two JPs will be present while the harvesting and the weighing takes place. Once it has been harvested it will be processed and sold as stock feed.

Last year Solari's crop weighed in at 12.69 tonnes/ha and the year prior he narrowly missed beating the record with the weight recorded as 14.2 tonnes/ha. The record is currently held by Oamaru cropping farmer Chris Dennison who grew a crop in 2003 that yielded 15.015 tonnes/ha.

**ENDS**