

# Reasons Wimmera farmers gave for why they grow pulses (2016)

N= 25

(from students in 'Pulsing into pulses')

## Activity:

1 find the common words to help make groups of similar reasons

2 give each group a description of the reasons

So we can get away from root disease

To enable different chemical groups to be used

For a break crop

To put nutrients back into the soils

Crop rotation for disease and weed

control

Being legumes, they naturally fix nitrogen from the atmosphere into the soil

For hay

To dig into the ground

Had to

As a disease break crop

Pulses put nitrogen into soil

We do this every year

Break crop from cereals

Boosts nitrogen levels in the soil

It's easier to control grasses in pulses

Good for the soil

Good revenue

Feed if not top quality

# Soil – nitrogen

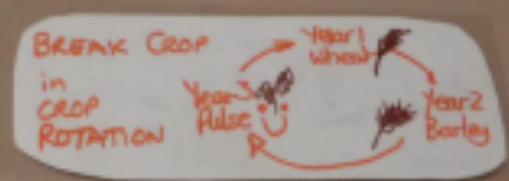
# Stock – feed

Did your group of reasons look something like this?

## Summary of reasons farmers grow pulses.

Results from survey questions from session 1 received by end August

The main reasons our farmers gave were:




**BREAK CROP**  
in  
CROP  
ROTATION

Year 1 Pulse → Year 2 Barley → Year 3 Wheat → Year 1 Pulse

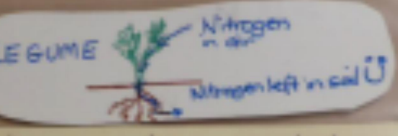
Pulses are a break crop = used in crop rotations, to lower weeds and disease.

(sustainable agriculture)



**LIVESTOCK FEED**  
harvested seed  
cut for hay

Pulses are stock feed = plants cut as hay or seeds harvested for animals to eat.

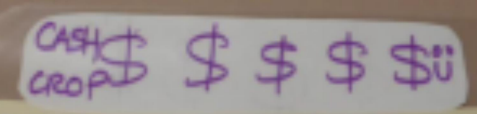


**LEGUME**

Nitrogen in air  
Nitrogen left in soil

Pulses are a legume = plant that takes Nitrogen from the air, uses it and adds it to soil, to help the next crop.


(sustainable agriculture)



**CASH CROP** \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Pulses are a cash crop = sold.

But they didn't say what they are sold for ..... !



**FOODS.**  
cooked pulses  
sprouts

Pulses are foods = as sprouted or cooked seeds.

used in Australia and across the world.