

How much more for non-GM?

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By Bill Crabtree

Minister Kim Chance is right to point out that "it's hard to distinguish a price premium for non-GM crops". Because there is none. We have had 10 years now to try and obtain a price premium for non-GM, and we have failed. We have also missed out on a 30% extra grain yield from GM canola during some of this time (and other benefits). Mr Chance believes that we have better market access by not being GM, but who cares if it does not attract an extra \$1/t - will Mr Chance recompense the Western Australian farmer for the 30% lost grain yield over these opportunity-lost years? Surveys of markets must be more than "which would you prefer; GM or non-GM?" The question needs to be "will you give us 5%, 10%, 20% or 30% more for being non-GM?" If markets say 30% more, and they were prepared to sign the contract, then I would become an anti-GM activist!