

**Media Release****February 23, 2010****Murphy's Law marks record attempt**

After a record-breaking harvest on the eve of the one that counted, Methven farmer Craig Mackenzie has fallen victim to Murphy's Law.

Mackenzie was attempting to break the Guinness World Record for the heaviest wheat harvest and brought in his crop of Wakanui feed wheat today.

He harvested the 10ha paddock registered with the Guinness Book but knew halfway through that it would likely be short, as the combine's cab yield meter showed a lighter than expected return.

The current world record is 15.36 tonnes per hectare, held by a Southland farmer.

Ironically the night before, harvesting the adjoining paddock, Mackenzie's yield meter showed a grain harvest that would have easily broken the world's record.

"If we try again we will consider registering more than one paddock," he laughed yesterday.

Factors influencing this paddock's lower return may have included a lower-than-recommended sowing rate, a conservative nitrogen programme and the field having had carrots there before wheat was planted.

However, Mackenzie was pleased with the way the Wakanui cultivar performed and said he would plant it again.

"It's been a good cultivar, with long season maturity and maximum production.

"A world record was never going to be easy and neither should it be. It was fun giving it a go and now we will get back to business."

Mackenzie was grateful of Cantabrian support in his attempt, including BASF, Anderson & Associates and R&R Haulage in Methven.

Canterbury Seed grain manager Chris Thomas said despite not making the record this time round, the Wakanui cultivar had performed pleasingly well both on both dryland farms as well as irrigated land.

For more information or a picture of the harvest please contact

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