

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

April 2015

Stubble Initiative Guidelines Rolling off the Press

Ruth Sommerville

Interrow Sowing and Onion Weed Management have been the first issues of maintaining profitability whilst retaining stubble residues tackled by the UNFS for our Guidelines under the GRDC Stubble Initiative.

These resources are being developed by UNFS as part of a five year project funded through the GRDC Maintaining Profitable Farming Systems with Retained Stubble Initiative.

The first of 12 in production, these guidelines are specifically focussed on the Upper North Region and tackle issues that result in reduced profitability in a retained stubble farming system.

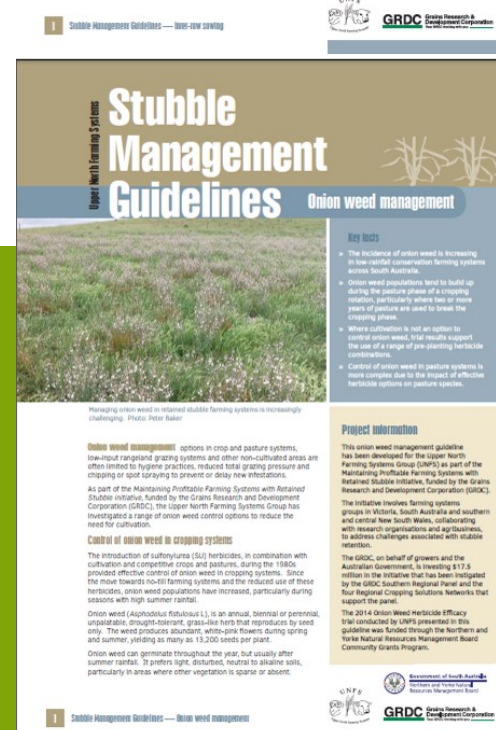
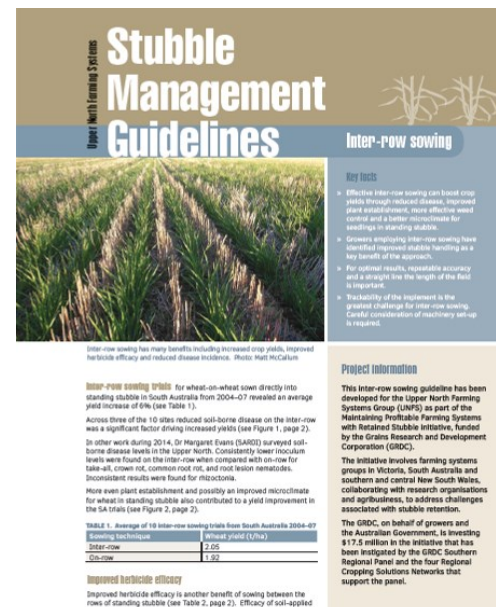
Each Guideline aims to outline the problem, offer options for consideration for managing the issue and examines how others in the district are implementing positive management activities.

At the Precision Agriculture Field Day at Orroroo, UNFS launched the Interrow Sowing Guideline. A farmer panel of the case studies from the Guideline discussed how they are tackling some of the issues faced when implementing Interrow Sowing into retained stubble residue.

At the Farming Sustainably Field Day at Crystal Brook, the Onion Weed management Guideline was launched with discussion around chemical control options and a demonstration of spot spray technology that may make control of this weed and many other summer weeds more profitable in the future. Case studies for this Guideline will be added to this document during 2015.

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- Australian Craft Beer Revolution



Post Pasture Seeding Demonstration Sites

Ruth Sommerville

It is the most common reason stated for why farmers in the Upper North of South Australia continue to work their paddocks prior to seeding. The pasture phase of a cropping rotation is believed to result in a compacted soil surface and have a negative effect on crop establishment in a no-till system.

Under the GRDC Stubble Initiative in 2014 our post-pasture seeder demonstration site at JP and Nicole Carey's property White Cliffs, Booleroo Centre, showed no significant improvement in plant establishment or yield as a result of working a paddock prior to seeding.

Building on the information gained from this site, UNFS has been funded under the 25th Anniversary Landcare Grants to undertake 6 demonstration sites across the region in 2015.

With seeding fast approaching we are finalising these sites and are seeking an additional 3 farmers to participate in this project.

Each site will be sown by the landholder using your own equipment. The site will be divided into worked and unworked sections. The site will then be assessed by Peter Baker, Fenceline Consulting, 2-3 times throughout the season. The ability to map the yield of the paddock using a yield monitor is preferable.

If you are interested in seeing whether the process of working your paddock after a pasture phase has an effect on plant establishment, yield or the overall profitability of the paddock please contact Peter Baker; 0408 272282, peter@fencelineconsulting.com.au



UNFS Post Pasture Seeding Demonstration Site 2014, White Cliffs. Photo: JP Carey



**National
Landcare
Programme**



Controlled Traffic Survey

Thankyou to all that filled in the survey for the Controlled Traffic either independently or with the assistance of Natalie. It is great to be able to easily fulfil the requirements of these types of projects. We are eagerly awaiting to hear which of our nominated on-ground projects for this trial will be funded!



Upper North Farming Systems

Pasture and Production Zoning Workshops

SPEAKERS

Michael Wells
Precision Cropping Technologies

John Squires and Claire Gutsche
Rural Directions Pty Ltd

DETAILS

8 April 2015, 9.30am – 12.30pm
Trevor & Dianne Gum's farm, Orroroo

8 April 2015, 2pm – 5pm
Joe Koch's farm, Booleroo Centre

9 April 2015, 9am – 12pm
Robert & Michelle Dennis' farm, Port Germein

With the increasing costs of cropping and highly variable rainfall in parts of the Upper North it is increasingly important that land use is appropriately matched to land type and condition.

The Upper North Farming System is holding three on-farm workshops to demonstrate the tools that are available to assist producers to analyse their production zones. This includes the use of satellite imagery and yield data.

The half day workshops will show producers how these tools can be used to develop and implement appropriate pasture and grazing management systems.

By attending this workshop you will:

- Be introduced to satellite imagery and how it can be used for pasture/production zoning
- Analyse the production zone maps of nearby paddocks
- Discuss implications associated with the production zones and enterprise choice
- Assess the impact production zoning can have on your bottom line

Each three hour workshop will include a couple of hours for group discussion with the speakers and then a visit to the property demonstration site.

This workshop is part of the Pasture and Production Zoning project, funded by the Northern and Yorke NRM Board and the Commonwealth Government.

For more information or to RSVP please contact Claire at Rural Directions Pty Ltd
on 8841 4500 or email cgutsche@ruraldirections.com



Government of South Australia

Northern and Yorke Natural
Resources Management Board



2015 UNFS Precision Agriculture and Farming Sustainably Field Days Hit the Mark

Ruth Sommerville

Over 70 attendees at the inaugural UNFS Precision Agriculture Day signalled an appealing topic. Precision Agriculture has the potential to significantly improve a farmers productivity, efficiencies and overall profitability. It can however become complex and too hard to implement.

The UNFS PA day brought together suppliers of technical expertise and infrastructure for use in the Livestock and Cropping Industries to assist farmers of the Upper North to gain the confidence to investigate a new piece of precision technology and the network to enable them to implement it.

Highlights of the day included the presentations on livestock management on an individual versus flock scale by Hamish Dickson; AgriPartner Consulting and the Farmer Panels and Presentations on Interrow Sowing and Controlled Traffic Farming.

It was also great to see the new and exciting technology on display by our 17 trade exhibitors. The mornings presentations showed a vast supply of knowledge and support in the region for those wishing to improve the precision of their enterprise.

Presentations at the Farming Sustainably Field Day on March 26th, Crystal Brook brought together a number of issues that significantly impact on production but are often overlooked.

The presentation by Danny LeFurve, Australian Bee Services, on the role of insects in pollination and the current research into inoculation of crops by bees to prevent disease and pest damage was a discussion point for the rest of the day.

Peter Hayman, SARDI, reviewed weather data from Booleroo Centre from the past 40 years and compared the resulting yields. There were some interesting results around stored soil moisture and the irregular effects of the El Nino pattern on average yields.

If there is a topic of interest to your region or a specific field day you would like to see the group hold, please get in touch. We will continue to hold events throughout the UNFS region and with specific focuses over the coming years.

Thankyou to the funding bodies that made these events possible.



A diverse and interesting line-up of speakers and trade exhibitions guaranteed a worthwhile day for all that attended the UNFS Precision Agriculture Field Day. Photos: Ruth Sommerville



**Building Farmer & Advisor
Knowledge in Carbon Farming**



SheepConnect SA Sheep Industry Technology Day

YOU ARE INVITED to see the latest in sheep technology drones, apps for sheep producers, electronic identification, auto drafters, sheep handlers, shearing shed and yard designs.



FREE Technology & Innovation Day:

April 14th Allan Piggott "illoura"
Moorlands, South Australia

April 15th Leigh McGinty "Swan Haven"
Langkoop, Victoria

REGISTRATION:

9.00am for a 9.30am start

Conclude by 3.00pm

Lunch available for purchase

Speakers to include:

- Labour efficiencies and investments in the sheep enterprise
Ken Solly, Solly Business Services, Narracoorte
- Taking salt out of your stock water, pays dividends
Mark Towner, Mark Towner Consulting, Campertown, Victoria
- Cloud based technology for your farm enterprise
Linda Eldridge, Eldridge and Associates Consulting, Clare

These sessions will be followed by hands on demonstrations of the latest sheep innovations and technologies.

Further enquiries to:

Mary Crawford - SheepConnect SA

P : (08) 8688 3414

E : mary.crawford@sa.gov.au



This event is supported by the SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board through the NIWM levy and funding from the Australian Government.



Continuing the transformation

Postgraduate Scholarships PhD & Masters degree - \$30,000 per annum Applications close 10th April 2015

Are you, or do you know a highly motivated student interested in researching genomics, meat science, animal wellbeing, or rural extension and training?

The Sheep CRC is offering scholarships to PhD and Masters degree candidates for research projects at a choice of sites across the CRC network.

**If you know of someone who may be interested
please pass this information onto them**

Click Here



An Australian Government Initiative



Australian Football Shows its Fibre



Excerpt from Woolmark Newsletter - 24th March 2015

With the start of the 2015 Australian Football League (AFL) season next month comes the historic development that all clubs in the competition will be selling Australian wool products for the first time in decades.

100 per cent Australian Merino wool retro football jumpers, scarves, gloves and beanies will be available as part of the supporter apparel offering at club stores as well as www.shop.afl.com.au from April, branded under The Woolmark Company's [Fibre of Football](#) campaign.

Also available will be knit kits in club colours for child and adult beanies and scarves. The kits contain balls of 100% Australian wool 14ply yarn, 7mm knitting needles, wool needle, instruction leaflet, AFL fabric badge and club fabric badge. Club knit wool blend jumpers will also be available.

The re-entry of wool into AFL merchandise comes after 18 months of work by The Woolmark Company alongside AFL merchandise licensee PlayCorp, together with testing and trials with Australian manufacturers such as Lyon Sportswear and Australian Country Spinners.

General Manager of PlayCorp Apparel, Dean Grimster, said the initiative to create the retro jumpers from Australian Merino wool had gained a great deal of traction from across both the wool industry and the footballing community.

"Everyone we speak to is so excited about the opportunity to wear a woollen football jumper again. I take enormous pride in the fact that we're actually doing this," Mr Grimster said. "To make a football jumper in Australia, in Melbourne, out of Australian wool really closes the loop on the whole program."

To have wool recognised as the fibre of Australian football is only fitting given the strong social and economic ties the wool industry has had with the game from its very inception in the mid-19th century in country Victoria. The Fibre of Football campaign will take many forms and provide various opportunities throughout 2015 such as meeting our advocates and game-day opportunities.



Highlights from the AWI Newsletter - 31st March 2015

Beyond the Bale & The Broader View

The March edition of **Beyond the Bale** is out now and [online](#). **The Broader View** for non-Merino producers is also now available online and in hard copy. www.wool.com/publications

ParaBoss Website

Have you checked out the ParaBoss Website, or signed up for their monthly emails? This site is a great source of information on parasites of sheep and how to implement best management practices for your herd and enterprise.

www.paraboss.com.au

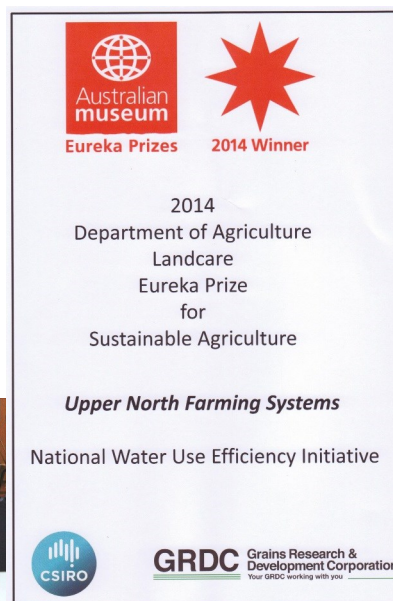


UNFS Strategic Planning and Members Dinner

Thankyou to all that joined us for the Strategic Planning Event held on the 23rd of March at the North Star Hotel, Melrose. Monday saw 18 UNFS Members and Stakeholders gather to discuss the history, values and aims of UNFS.

At the Members Dinner we celebrated the group and the success of the Water Use Efficiency Project. Barry Mudge provided an overview of the Water Use Efficiency Project and presented Joe Koch the Eureka Prize for Sustainable Agriculture for the Upper North Farming Systems contribution to the National Water Use Efficiency Initiative.

The committee reconvened the following day to compile the history, values and aims of the UNFS into a Plan for the Future. This Strategic Plan for the UNFS is now in draft form and will be presented at the UNFS AGM on July 8th for acceptance by the group.



Attachments

There were a large number of files and reports submitted for this months Newsletter. In order to keep the file size small please find attached to the email a number of additional documents.

Media Release on the 90 Day Transport Review

Outline of the Modern Transport System for Agriculture Program

Sponsor CBH Group Pre-Pay Advantage Flier.

UNFS Pasture Production Zoning Flier - Please feel free to circulate this.

Showcasing Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and NRM Workshop Flier

PPSA Time Zone Survey open now

The State Government has announced a review of the Time Zone in which South Australia is positioned.

The Government in doing so has kept all options open. However there is significant pressure from Business SA and others to go to Eastern Standard Time(EST). In the past this has been strongly opposed by the primary production sector.

Daylight saving is a big issue - however people's opinions will vary depending on which region they live in, so we will survey that issue separately.

For PPSA to strongly put the rural opinion to Government we need good feedback from you.

Please [click here](#) to complete the survey.

Webinars: Setting crops up for success in 2015

Choosing and applying the right pre-emergent herbicide can be difficult, particularly if herbicide resistance is becoming a challenge in a no-till system. Dr Chris Preston explains the chemistry of pre-emergent herbicides, how they work and what's best for your operation.

<http://www.weedsmart.org.au/webinars/setting-crops-up-for-success/>

The Australian Craft Beer Revolution

Excerpt from AEGIC website, Imogen Brennan, 25 February 2015

Laughter spills through open windows and tumbles onto the streets outside. Barbecues sizzle, sending the unmistakable scent of summer lunch through the breeze. Pools splash. Insects hum. Frangipanis perfume the air. Lunch drifts into dinner, the sun sets. This is an Australian summer at its best. Perfect beer drinking conditions. The only challenge is deciding which beer to drink.

There are now more than 200 craft beer producers in Australia, after a surge of small breweries cropped up across the country recently. And just as the beer itself varies from producer to producer, so too does the definition of exactly what craft beer is. Though after speaking with many brewers – all of whom are madly enthusiastic about what they do - a few common themes emerge.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events Calendar

April 2015

8 UNFS Pasture Production Zoning Workshop 9.30-12.30, Trevor Gums Property, Orroroo.

8 UNFS Pasture Production Zoning Workshop 2-5, Joe Kochs Property, Booleroo Centre

9 UNFS Pasture Production Zoning Workshop 9-12, Robert & Michelle Dennis Property, Port Germein.

13 Nitrogen in Agriculture Symposium. Soil Science Australia, Uni SA Mawson Lakes. Flyer attached

15 Spray Application Technology & Loss Management Workshop, Elders Jamestown,
www.ispray.com.au

30 UNFS Annual Trials Results Book Available

May 2015

11 Showcasing Innovation and Technology in Agriculture and NRM. Clare. Flyer attached.

June 2015

19-21 Campground Host Training, Mt Remarkable National Park - Mambray Creek Campground.
Donna Ferschl, Natural Resources Northern and Yorke - (08) 8666 2014 or M 0447 201 347

22 The business case for carbon farming: improving your farm's sustainability Workshop, Kadina
Kondinin Group 1800 677 761 www.carbonfarminginitiative.farmingahead.com.au

July 2015

8 UNFS Annual General Meeting

21 Hart Winter Walk [Sandy Kimber](#) 0427 423 154

22 EPARF Member Day 2015: Innovation and Technology [Dot Brace](#) 8680 5104

24 Mid North High Rainfall Group Winter Walk [Phil Holmes](#) 0428 587 862

August 2015

6 UNFS Annual Field Day

13 GRDC Research Update, Kadina. ORM www.orm.com.au

September 2015

2 Minnipa Agricultural Centre Annual Field Day – Celebrating 100 Years Leala Hoffmann, 8680 5104

10 UNFS Eastern Spring Crop Walk. Date for Western Spring Crop walk TBA.

13-16 Australian Barley Technical Symposium, Manly www.abtsbarley.info/

15 Hart Field Day [Sandy Kimber](#) 0427 423 154

29 Mid North High Rainfall Group Field Day [Phil Holmes](#) 0428 587 862

29/30/1 Yorke Peninsula Field Days - Paskeville

October 2015

20 Hart Spring Twilight Walk [Sandy Kimber](#) 0427 423 154

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