

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

August 2014

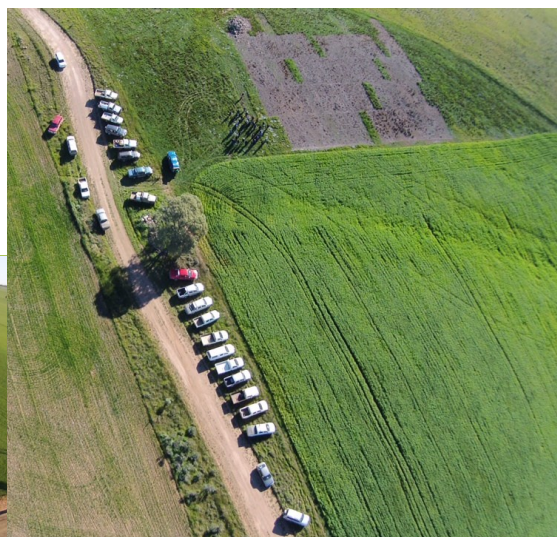
UNFS ANNUAL FIELD DAY A FULL HOUSE

Ruth Sommerville

Thursday the 7th of August saw the UNFS Annual Field Day kicked off with a superb winters day. Despite the perfect day we had over 60 come along to listen to a great line up of speakers covering a broad range of topics appealing to both cropping and livestock enterprises. The run down of what UNFS has been up to this year was well received. The tales from the Eastern Low Rainfall Zone Bus Trip were of a great week full of information and opportunities to discuss farming operations with like minded farmers and researchers. Hugh Wallwork, SARDI, gave a very thorough insight into the potential cereal diseases to be on the look out for with the climatic conditions of 2014. Barry Mudge stepped in for Ben Fleet who was unable to attend and gave a good overview of the herbicide resistant Barley Grass that has become established on the western flanks of the Ranges and the work being undertaken to get it back under control. This served as a timely reminder to all how quickly herbicide resistance can develop and the dedication that is needed when managing hard to control weeds.

Steve Henry, CSIRO, presented the new Mouse Alert program that has been developed to feed information into researchers on real time changes to mouse populations and enable the notification of landholders of increasing numbers in their district. Alan Crossman, Tru-Test, provided an overview of their livestock management technology and the role adoption of new technology can play in improved productivity. Matt McCallum presented on the increasing presence of the Winter Wheat. Joe Koch and I presented the results of the 2013 Seeder Demonstration which led into a discussion panel on the role seeder set-up plays in plant establishment and the decision making process behind upgrading a seeding unit. As always, the farmer panel and discussion was a highlight of the day. Thankyou to JP Carey, Gavin Schwark and Matt Nottle for agreeing to be on the panel.

The afternoon kicked off with a presentation by Jake Phillips, MLA, on the Meat Standards Australia accreditation process for sheep producers. We then headed out to inspect the Onion Weed Trial and discuss practical management options for Onion Weed in both a livestock and cropping farming system. The day wrapped up with a visit to the Post Pasture Seeding Demonstration Site at JP Carey's Property. Here we looked at the effect of cultivation, speed, tyne pressure and fertiliser rates on plant establishment. Thankyou to all that helped to make it a great day!



Aerial Photos of the Post Pasture Sowing Demonstration and Onion Weed Trial Site at the UNFS Annual Field Day on Thursday the 7th of August.

GREEN PEACH APHID AND BEET WESTERN YELLOWS VIRUS UPDATE AVAILABLE

Source: SARDI Entomology Pest Facts

Beet Western Yellows Virus is widespread in canola crops with confirmed distribution in the Lower, Mid and Upper North. This follows widespread infestations of green peach aphid (GPA) (*Myzus persicae*), the principal vector of BWYV, during autumn and early winter.

Some crops in the lower north region of SA have been badly damaged, having been infected at the highly susceptible rosette stage. The majority of crops appear to have been infected at a slightly later growth stage and while they may have suffered yield loss, these losses are expected to be less than in the crops infected earlier.



Purple Edges in advanced plant. Photo; www.agric.wa.gov.au

Over the past week, GPA populations have been increasing on Eyre Peninsula and have been treated with a variety of products. Chlorpyrifos has proved unsuccessful and growers are using Transform®

Monitoring aphids

SARDI suggest that growers and advisors in high-risk areas should be closely monitoring for the first signs of aphid flights, and be prepared to immediately apply appropriate insecticide treatments to protect susceptible crops. Aphids (and potential flights) can be monitored using a combination of yellow sticky traps, and directly searching for aphids on plants. Aphid flights are generally preceded by environmental conditions which cause increased production of winged adults in the population. Sweep nets are useful for rapidly assessing the presence of GPA and numbers of winged adults in the population, and will assist with monitoring for diamondback moth larvae.

A full Update on BWYV has been developed by SARDI, from which this is an excerpt. For a copy of the full document please contact Ruth Sommerville or Michael Wurst.

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LIFETIME EWE MANAGEMENT EXPANDS

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) will further fund the expansion of the popular Lifetime Ewe Management course (LTEM), investing an additional \$800,000 for the further expansion of the course to 2017.

AWI has been the principal funder of LTEM and the Lifetime Wool research project it evolved from, contributing more than \$10 million over the last 12 years.

The course is delivered through Rural Industries Skill Training (RIST) via facilitators across all major sheep producing regions of Australia.

LTEM has now involved more than 2000 sheep producers managing over 20 per cent of the nation's ewe flock or 8 million ewes. The latest round of funding will assist the training of up to 600 more sheep producers in 120 groups as demand for the course continues, particularly in pastoral country.

The average LTEM participant manages just over 3500 ewes and has increased whole farm lamb marking by 10pc, reduced ewe mortality by 33pc and increased stocking rate by 12pc.

The two-year nationally accredited course involves small groups of farmers learning from each other through on-farm facilitated activities such as condition scoring, pasture assessment and feed budgeting. Producers learn to best match the energy requirements of animals with pasture production and supplementary feeding to maximise animal welfare and production.

Alex Coole, woolgrower from Franklind, WA said she had significantly benefitted from the LTEM course.

"The knowledge I have gained by being involved in the LTEM course has not only improved my practical skills and assessments, but has given me a much better understanding of feed budgeting and the importance of sheep energy requirements. This knowledge along with the interaction between like-minded farmers has been a worthwhile investment of my time."

AWI Research General Manager Paul Swan said the organisation was a proud developer and supporter of the LTEM program.

"It is a great example of where investment in initial research, its development and effective extension model has paid off handsomely for the woolgrowers we work for and will continue to generate benefits for years to come."

In the meantime, the LTEM Application for smartphones is now being trialled and on target for release later this year.

To set up an LTEM group in your local area or to join a group in your area, call RIST on (03) 5573 0943 or visit www.rist.com.au.

For more information on LTEM, please see [Learning about sheep nutrition](#).



If you think this is something that would be good to run in your area, please contact us for assistance in putting a group together or in working out "where to go from here"

Update from West of the Ranges

Barry Mudge, 0417826790

Seasonal Update

Following the excellent start to the season, crops have established well and yield prospects are generally good. Insects have been problematic in all crops. Diseases associated with insect transmission have also been reported. Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus has been confirmed in barley crops north of Port Pirie. Also, Beet Western Yellows Virus has been confirmed in Canola north of Port Germein. Full yield effects of these diseases are not likely to be evident until spring.

There are many very early sown crops north of Port Pirie which are well into head. Effects of the current dry frosty period are yet to be established.

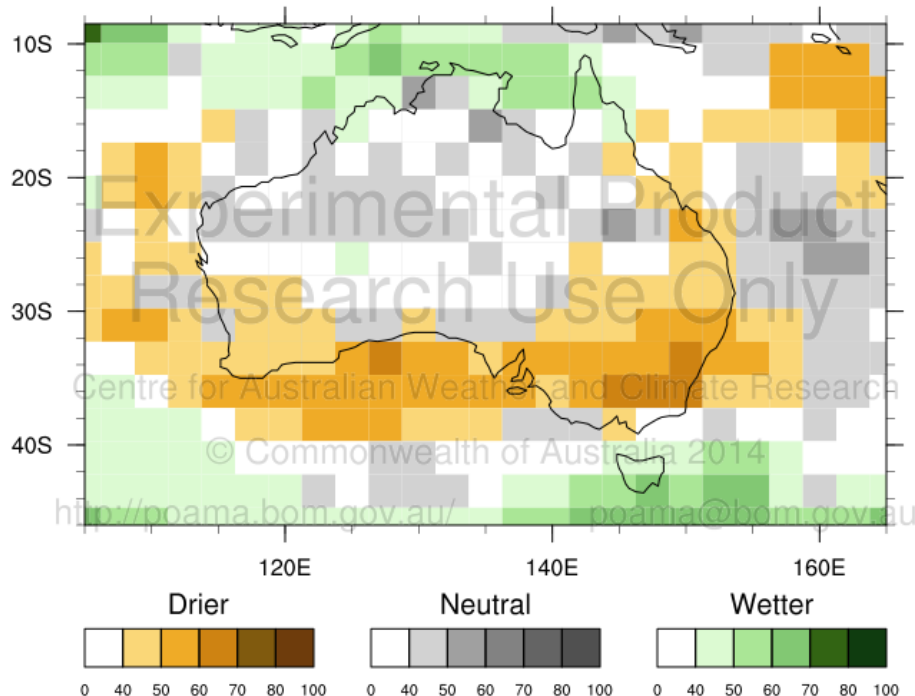
At this stage, soil moisture reserves remain reasonable, although July rainfall has generally been below average. Spring rainfall prospects remain uncertain with El Nino talk fading but still in the picture. While I continue to remain sceptical about seasonal outlook forecasts (mainly due to the low level of "skill" generally accompanying these forecasts), it is interesting to note that the current prospects for August rainfall (as produced by the BOM's POAMA model) are not particularly good. As shown below, the model is showing 50-60% probability of rainfall being in the lowest tercile (one third) of recordings (i.e. the chances of rainfall being in the wetter two thirds of years was less than 50%). The model is demonstrating a medium level of skill for this forecast.

Precipitation / Rainfall Tercile Probabilities

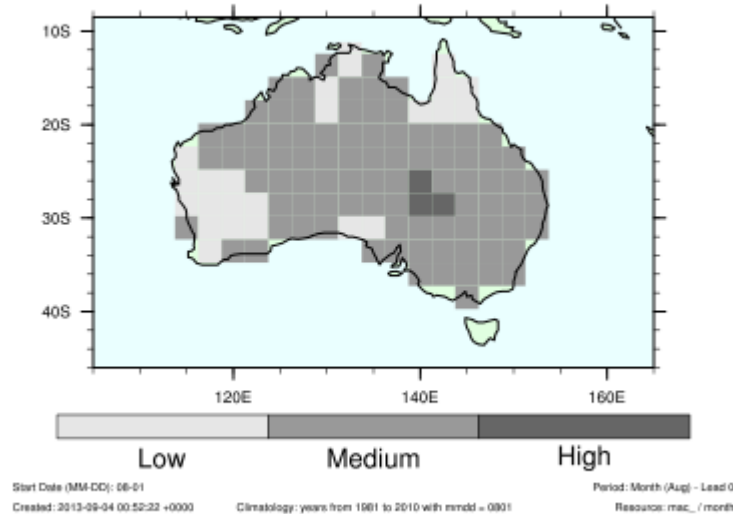
Region: Australia

Start Date: 2014-07-31

Period: (Aug) 01/08/2014 to 31/08/2014



Average Rainfall Skill for this period



Nelshaby Agricultural Bureau

The Nelshaby Agricultural Bureau (which acts as the group for the UNFS west of the ranges) held its AGM early in July. Incoming President is Kym Reid from Wandearah with Lee Jackson continuing as Secretary. Guest speaker at the AGM was Peter Kuhlman (Mudamuckla farmer and previous Farmer of the Year). Peter gave an excellent run-down on the challenges of "farming on the edge" in an environment with many issues including a low and unreliable rainfall as well as difficult soils etc.

UPCOMING UNFS / NELSHABY AG BUREAU JOINT EVENTS

Northern Crop Walk- August 22, commencing at 1.30 PM. This crop walk will look at crops and pastures north of Port Pirie. Included will be the opportunity to inspect a **CSIRO Time of Seeding trial** incorporating our current varieties along with various **Winter Wheats**- the idea is to investigate the possibility of using different phenology wheats to allow us to capture earlier seeding opportunities. We will also inspect a **barley grass control site** using different chemistries to control **Group A resistant barley grass**. Joining us on the crop walk will be 6 North Africans (from Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco) who will be in Australia on an agronomy study tour. Afternoon will conclude with a BBQ tea at Barry Mudge's. All welcome, but if attending, please let Barry (0417826790) know for catering purposes.

Nelshaby Ag Bureau Stickybeak Day- Wednesday, September 24th, commencing at 9.00 am from the Travellers Rest Hotel, Warnertown. Bus trip around the Port Pirie region looking at crops and trials. Contact Lee Jackson on 0438031768.

GPSA AGM

**Thursday 11th
September 2014**

**Adelaide Festival
Centre**

9.30am - 3.30pm

followed by networking drinks.

Please RSVP for catering.

More information

[GPSA website](#) or call

1300 734 844

The opening address will be delivered by Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell who will take questions from members. Shadow Minister David Ridgway will speak later in the day. There will be an extended facilitated session to wrap up the day where growers can add their own issues for GPSA action.

Key issues on the agenda include Viterra storage and handling plans for season 2014-15, GPSA's work on cross-commodity issues infringing on farming such as mining, fracking and housing development, and the risks to our international markets of chemical residues in grain.

Call for GPSA board nominations

GRAIN Producers SA is seeking nominations from producers for four vacant board member positions and for the role of chairman, all for a two-year term.

GPSA chief executive officer Darren Arney says board members whose terms are expiring include Garry Hansen, Mark Schilling, Malcolm Sargent and Max Wilksch. Board members continuing for another term include Brett Roberts, Peter Polkinghorne and Wade Dabinett. The GPSA Constitution outlines the board can include six directors plus a chairman. The board can also appoint up to two independent directors.

Mr Arney encouraged growers to consider joining the management of GPSA to contribute to the industry's future. Board members attend eight meetings in Adelaide or regional South Australia and participate in telephone conferences as needed.

"There is also the opportunity to represent GPSA nationally on other commodity or issue groups to communicate South Australia's views at a higher level," he said. "In the event that there are more nominations than positions available, GPSA will conduct a vote. Only members are eligible to vote for directors – or to nominate in the first place – so if you are unsure whether you are a member of GPSA or not, please contact the office as soon as possible."

Nominations close at 5pm on Thursday, August 21, 2014. Producers must complete a nomination form – available online at www.grainproducerssa.com.au or by contacting the office on 1300 734 884.





Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

2015 Science Awards

Grants to realise big ideas
from young rural innovators

Grant applications are now open for the 2015 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. If you're 18-35, this is your chance to apply for up to \$22,000 to fund your innovative research project that will benefit Australia's primary industries.

More information and application forms at daff.gov.au/scienceawards. Applications close 5pm (AEDT) Friday 03 October 2014.

Contact
Email scienceawards@agriculture.gov.au



Upcoming Events Calendar

August

12-14 - Eyre Peninsula Field Days

22 - UNFS Northern (Nth of Port Pirie) Crop Walk-1.30PM. Contact Barry Mudge

26 - Precision Livestock Management - Is it Worth It? Workshop, Clare. Contact Hamish Dickson 0427 446 499

26-29 - ACTFA Annual Conference - Mildura - <http://actfa.net>

September

2/3 - SPAA Annual Conference

3 - Minnipa Ag Centre Annual Field Day. Contact Dot Brace 8680 6202

4 - Mallee Sustainable Farming Karoonda Field Day. Contact Susan Walla (03) 5021 9100

11 - UNFS Spring Crop Walk - Booleroo Centre 1-5PM

16 - Hart Field Day - www.hartfieldsite.org.au

19/20 - Riverland Field Days

24 - Nelshaby Ag Bureau Stickybeak Day - 9am, Warnertown. Lee Jackson, 0438031768

PRECISION LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT — IS IT WORTH IT?



GPS guidance for livestock. A workshop to understand what technologies are available and importantly, are they economically worth it?

- How new technologies such as eID, Pedigree Match-maker, autodrafters and fleece testing can create a more productive flock.
- What are the major profit drivers in sheep enterprises and how should this be used to direct any investment.
- How data collected with this technology can be used to create a more profitable enterprise.

Don't miss this opportunity for an objective look at the role of new technologies in sheep flocks.

Agri Partner
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PRESENTED BY
Hamish Dickson

WHEN
August 26th
8:30am - 12:30pm

WHERE
Bungaree Station
Main North Rd, Clare SA

REGISTRATION
Hamish Dickson
Ph: 0427 446 499
E: hamish@agripartner.com.au
www.agripartner.com.au/events

INVESTMENT
\$50 (GST incl) per business.
Includes attendance, refreshments
and morning tea.

Making More From Sheep



A joint initiative of
mia
Murray Irrigation Authority



**sheep
connect**
Australia's sheep industry

Precision Livestock Management Workshop—Program

August 26th, 8:30am— 12:30pm

Topic	Details	Time
Welcome	<i>A warm welcome and introductions</i>	8:30am
Enterprise productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the productivity differences between the bottom, middle and top 20% of animals in a flock for individual traits such as fertility, growth rates, weaning weights, fleece weight, micron. Is this level of variation the same for composite measures of productivity such as litter weight weaned, reproductive efficiency %? 	8:50 - 9:25am
Effect on profit	<p><i>Does this variation matter to the bottom line...?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare the effect on gross margin (per animal and per hectare) of this variation in productivity of animals within a flock. Which have the greatest effect on profit and should be targeted early? What are the greatest profit drivers in sheep businesses—a practical session to investigate what matters the most. 	9:25 - 10:10am
Morning tea		10:10 - 10:30am
How to capitalise on variation in your flock!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can we identify those superior performing animals within a flock? Overview of the different equipment available, how it works, practical implementation and costs. 	10:30 - 11:30am
Cost / benefit of investment in precision livestock technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the cost / benefit of investing in technology to create a more productive flock? <p>Do you need to invest in the technology yourself or should you use contractors/hire equipment?</p>	11:30 - 12:00pm
Wrap up and close	<i>Open session for questions and event close.</i>	12:00 - 12:30pm

Directions to venue:

Bungaree Station is located 12 km North of Clare at 431 Bungaree Road (off Main North Road / Highway B82). Travel approx. 6km north of Clare, turn left at the sign to Bungaree Station, travel a further 6km and follow the signs to the workshop.

Making More From Sheep



A joint initiative of
 **mla**
 Meat & Livestock Australia

 **awi**
 Australian Wool Innovation



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Apologies for the poor quality image. The image provided for this advertisement would not enable editing. If you would like the original sent to you please contact Ruth Sommerville.

Empowering Women

International Rural Women's Conference
Adelaide Event and Exhibition Centre Adelaide Show Grounds
3, 4 November 2014

Listen Learn Engage



Empowering, Educational, Inspiring Themes



- Food Security
- Health and Well being of Rural Communities
- Women Influencing Agribusiness
- Technology Inspiring Innovative Change

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Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges

Natural Resources
SA Murray Darling Basin

Submissions for Papers Open

Registrations Open

www.internationalruralwomensconference.com

Carol: caroljschofield@bigpond.com 0885529412 ; 0428364919

GRDC Grains Research & Development Corporation
Your GRDC working with you



UNFS 2014 Annual Field Day.

Left: Standing room only. A full house at the Booleroo Centre Club Rooms. Right: A great lunch was provided by the sponsors.

Photos: Ruth Sommerville

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UNFS SPRING CROP WALK

Thursday 11th September



Cereal Disease and Nutrition Management in the Low Rainfall Zone

The 2014 UNFS Spring Crop Walk will be held at Trial Sites surrounding Booleroo Centre on Thursday the 11th of September. Presentations will kick-off at 1PM. We will visit 3 trial sites through out the afternoon.

The focus of the event is on cereal disease and nutrition management. We will inspect the Variable Rate Nitrogen Trial site with a presentation on More Profit from Crop Nutrition as well as discussing the trial and the various monitoring tools being implemented at this site.

Rob Wheeler, SARDI, will be on hand at the NVT Trial Site to run through the Wheat and Barley NVT trial results and implications for Upper North cropping operations.

Dr Margaret Evans from SARDI will be at our Crown Rot Trial Site to discuss Disease Monitoring and Management in the Upper North.

The day will be wrapped up with a BBQ. The final program will be circulated to members in the coming weeks.

We hope to see you there. All Welcome. This event is free for all members.



Seed to Store - The Story of Australian Grain is an exciting new video clip competition which will run complimentary to the Royal Adelaide Show's 2014 Competitions.

Simply produce a one minute video showcasing the journey of grains, legumes, oilseeds and pulses from being seed in the ground to food for people and livestock.

Concepts you might like to consider include best practice science, innovation, farming and food production in South Australia - essentially the journey of grain from the paddock to our plate. <http://eepurl.com/Vu3Fn>



Create an entertaining one minute YouTube clip profiling the South Australian grains industry to **WIN \$1000 CASH** and feature on the Coke Stage at the 2014 Royal Adelaide Show.



Know your new obligations for industrial relations

CHANGES to employment legislation took effect on July 1 including adjustments to wages, superannuation, and casual loading.

For the first full pay period after July 1:

- Wages under all Federal awards increased by 3 percent while allowances were also adjusted.
- The superannuation contribution increased from 9.25pc to 9.5pc. It will continue to rise until it reaches 12pc on July 1, 2019.

The transitional casual loading increased from 24pc to 25pc for workplaces which were bound by a state award before January 1, 2010, such as the *Pastoral Industry (South Australia) Award*. The casual loading remains at 25pc for other employers.

Source: Grain Producers SA eNews August 2014

UNFS 2014 Annual Field Day.

Top: Peter Baker, Fenceline Consulting, running through treatments at the Onion Weed Trial. Middle: Mark Ludgate, Peterborough, discussing practical management of Onion Weed in a livestock only operation. Bottom: Barry Mudge got everyone

involved in his presentation on herbicide resistant Barley Grass and its management. Photos: Ruth Sommerville

Ag Bureau - Spirit of Excellence Awards for young rural South Australians

If you are from rural SA, are young and want to excel in your chosen career – be it farming or other, then you may be eligible to receive a grant from the Agricultural Bureau of SA through the Spirit of Excellence Awards. There are two awards up for grabs providing the opportunity for young farmers and young people in rural communities to improve their personal and professional development skills and to look at further study in their chosen career. Peter Olsen Fellowship \$8000 and Rural Youth Bursary \$5000. Successful recipients are chosen on their abilities, achievements, vision and motivation for success. Applications are open now until 31 August 2014 and can be downloaded from www.agbureau.com.au/awards



Upper North Farming Systems Contact List

We would like to welcome Paul Rodgers, Kym Fromm and Patrick Redden on to the management committee of the Upper North Farming Systems Group. We look forward to all that you can bring to our Future. Also, a big Thank You to Neil Sleep for his contribution to the management of the Upper North Farming Systems Group.

Joe Koch **Chairman**

(Booleroo Centre)

kochy260@hotmail.com

0428 672 161

Ian Ellery **Equipment Officer**

(Morchard) elleryprops@hotmail.com

0400 272 206

Barry Mudge **Vice Chairman**

(Nelshaby) theoaks5@bigpond.com

0417 826 790

Tony Jarvis **Field Day Coordinator**

(Booleroo/Pekina) jarvjane@active8.net.au

0427 586 035

Matt McCallum **Trials & Extension Chair**

(Booleroo/Willowie)

matthewmcag@bigpond.com

0438 895 167

Paul Rodgers (Quorn)

paulrodg.8@bigpond.com

0429 486 434

Ben Carn (Quorn)

carnomi@bigpond.com

Jim Kuerschner **Finance Officer**

(Orroroo/Black Rock)

jimkuerschner@bigpond.com

0427 516 038

0428 486 438

Matt Foulis (Willowie/Wilmington)

matt@northernag.com.au

0428 515 489

Don Bottral **Sponsorship Officer**

(Appila) donbot@active8.net.au

0427 635 002

Todd Orrock (Booleroo/Murraytown)

tango001@bigpond.com

0428 672 223

Kym Fromm **Public Officer**

(Orroroo) fromms@bigpond.com

0409 495 783

Patrick Redden (Clare/Jamestown)

PRedden@ruraldirections.com

0400036568

Contact Us

Email us at:
unfs@outlook.com

Upper North Farming Systems

PO Box 323

Jamestown, SA, 5491

Visit us on the web at:
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Farming-
Sys-
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Project Officer and Secretary

Ruth Sommerville

Rufous and Co

PO Box 16, Spalding 5454

rufousandco@yahoo.com.au

M: 0401 042 223

Treasurer

Samantha Quinn

PO Box 57, Hallett 5419

coolangatta25@bigpond.com

M: 0417 868 728

Project Delivery Partners

Rural Solutions SA

PO Box 223, Jamestown 5491

P: 08 8664 1408 F: 08 8664 1405

Michael.Wurst@sa.gov.au

Mary-Anne.Young@sa.gov.au

Fenceline Consulting

Peter Baker

0408272282

peter@fencelineconsulting.com.au