

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

August 2015

UNFS MEMBERS EXPO - THURSDAY 6th AUGUST

Upper North Farming Systems Group will gather for their Annual Members Event this coming Thursday, August 6th, at the Booleroo Centre Institute Hall.

Aimed at providing up to date information relevant to all farmers in the district this event is unique, focusing on productivity and profitability across all areas of livestock and cropping enterprises.

Crop rotations and the economics of break crops is a topic of great discussion in the Upper North, in particular the low rainfall areas. Michael Moodie, Mallee Sustainable Farming Group, will be presenting results from the Crop Sequencing Project, in its 5th and final year, having been run across south eastern Australia with a local site north of Appila. Michael is an entertaining speaker with a wealth of knowledge in this area.

Hamish Dickson from AgriPartner Consulting will be a highlight of the day with a session on livestock nutrition, digestive physiology and the importance of mineral nutrition. In addition, Hamish will present on grazing management of stubbles from a livestock nutrition and cover and soil health perspective.

The effect of time of sowing and Nitrogen management on commercial Barley varieties will be presented by Kenton Porker, Adelaide University. Learning the intricacies of managing individual varieties is becoming key to avoiding frost damage and maximising yield and grain qualities.

The farmer and advisor panels are always a key feature of UNFS events with members of the group discussing the decisions that have led them to where they are on their farm. This year the focus will be "Sheep in the Upper North: Different Models for Production". Farmers and advisors will discuss meat and wool based systems with variations on breeding and buying/selling operations with open discussion from the floor encouraged. The willingness of members to discuss their successes and where they have learnt a few lessons makes the forum a unique learning experience.

The UNFS Members Expo will also incorporate the groups AGM and updates from a number of other research projects occurring in the region including insights into Controlled Traffic Farming, Harvest Heights and Emerging Weeds.

This event has been made possible through funding from GRDC, Making More from Sheep and our valued sponsors. Registrations open at 9am for a 9.30am start. Main presentations will wrap up at 4PM with a networking session to follow. New members are welcome to come and register on the day. Annual Memberships from \$50 - \$125 which includes entry to the event and all catering on the day.

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Upper North Farming Systems 2015 Members Expo



Thursday 6th of August

Booleroo Centre Town Hall



- Sheep in the Upper North: Different Models for Production - Farmer and Advisor Discussion Panel
- Time of Sowing & N Management in Current Commercial Barley Varieties - Kenton Porker, Adelaide Uni.
- Harvest Heights and Crop Establishment in the Following Season - Sarah Noack, Hart Field Site Group.
- Economics of Break Crops - Michael Moodie, Mallee Sustainable Farming.
- UNFS Update and AGM
- Controlled Traffic in the Upper North. Matt McCallum, McAg Consulting and Randall Wilksch, EP Controlled Traffic Farmer.
- Key Principals of Livestock Nutrition, Digestive Physiology and Mineral Nutrition - Hamish Dickson, AgriPartner Consulting.
- Grazing Stubbles; Nutrition, Planning and Management. Hamish Dickson, AgriPartner Consulting.

When: Thursday 6th of August 2014, 9am to 5pm. Registration from 9am. Presentations begin at 9.30am. AGM - 12.30. Networking Event 4-5PM

Admission: The Expo is for UNFS Members. Membership is due for renewal and will extend through until the 2016 Annual Field Day/Expo. Membership includes attendance at UNFS Field Days, a regular newsletter, 8 -10 Yield Prophet reports, Research and Demonstration Activities and the Annual Results Compendium.

New members welcome. Membership Options;

| Membership Structure Options | People/Entry | Email Addresses | Field Day Book | Compendium | Cost |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|-------|
| Business Membership | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | \$125 |
| Dual Membership | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | \$75 |
| Individual Membership | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | \$50 |

Contact: Ruth Sommerville: 0401042223, email: unfs@outlook.com
www.facebook.com/UpperNorthFarmingSystems



Making More From Sheep



Position Vacant

UNFS Administration and Finance Officer - Contract



Upper North Farming Systems Group is looking for a well-organised and efficient person to join our team for approximately 7 to 10 hours per week who can perform all-round administration duties. The candidate must have strong Microsoft Office and financial management skills, excellent written and verbal communication skills and great time management skills. Industry background preferred but not essential.

The suitable applicant will operate as a contractor to the Upper North Farming Systems Group and as such will be responsible for the provision of their own workplace insurance, superannuation and office equipment.

The position roles include, but are not limited to: preparation and circulation of committee meeting agendas and minutes, general administration duties, management of membership register, circulation of UNFS publications & communications, assistance with organising group events and management of the financial records for the organisation, including invoicing and payment of accounts.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the duty statement please contact Barry Mudge: 0417 826 790 or theoaks5@bigpond.com

Applications including a current resume, 3 referees and a cover letter addressing the duty statement must be received by post or email at unfs@outlook.com or PO Box 323, Jamestown 5491 by COB on August 28th 2015.

UNFS Stubble Initiative: Seeding Systems and Pre-Sowing Paddock Management

Crop Walk September 10th, Booleroo Centre

1PM

Come and join us for an afternoon discussing the effect of different seeding systems on crop establishment, the role of pre-sowing paddock management in crop establishment and the theory of selecting tyres and calibrating and setting up your seeding unit.

Three paddocks that are part of the Post-pasture Crop Establishment Trial will be inspected and members of the Uni SA, Agricultural Machinery Research and Design Centre will be on hand to run through some of the differences in tyre and seeder engineering.

Membership Now DUE

Please make sure your membership forms and payments are returned as soon as possible to ensure that you don't miss out on any Yield Prophet Updates, Newsletters or Events!



FOX BAITS AVAILABLE AT UNFS MEMBERS EXPO

Bring along your section numbers and collect your fox baits from the Northern and Yorke NRM Board Staff at our Members Expo on Thursday the 6th of August.



**Government
of South Australia**

Northern and Yorke
Natural Resources
Management Board

Grazing Management Farm Gate Meeting 24th June 2015

Jodie Reseigh, Rural Solutions

A Farm Gate meeting was held at Jim Higgins property northwest of Booleroo Centre, on the 24th June 2015. Jim is passionate about his sheep and discussed his grazing management and the way he has incorporated his confinement feedlot into his system to reduce risk and increase production and profitability. Producers inspected a number of regenerating medic pastures as well as some sown vetch and Hindmarsh barley under-sown with medic. The weather was cold with a few light showers but this did not stop the 23 producers learning how Jim has successfully changed his system from a crop / livestock system to a livestock only system on his Booleroo Centre block.

Left Top: Producers enjoying the visit to Jim Higgins property included: Trevor Crawford, Ross McCallum, Michael Battersby, Ian McCallum, Neil Innes and Ian Clarke. Photo - Jodie Reseigh, Rural Solutions



Left Bottom: Jim Higgins explaining his livestock system at the recent Farm Gate Meeting. Photo - Jodie Reseigh, Rural Solutions

Survey Time: Complete and WIN?

SPAA wants your help to set the topics of its PA factsheets



This survey is a key component of a new 2 year SAGIT project to provide PA support for farmers and advisers. Your responses to this survey will be very important for developing a factsheet series, and will ensure that the needs of the grain industry are being reached.

We want you to decide the factsheet topics, tell us what the real PA information needs, by highlighting the issues so we can continue to support you through your PA journey. We hope you will take the time (approximately 10 minutes) to complete this survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W9XWLJ9>

IF YOU COMPLETE THE SURVEY YOU WILL GO IN THE DRAW TO WIN:

Consulting services to the value of \$500 to assist you with your PA action plan, be it data cleaning, PA agronomy advice, the choice is endless and tailored to your needs.

Don't worry if you are unable to answer every question, some are designed for farmers only and others for the PA industry sector. This is clearly marked so you won't get confused.

The team at SPAA encourages you to participate now. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/W9XWLJ9>
The survey will remain open until November. Thanks in advance for your help.

2015 State Landcare Conference

Registrations for the 2015 State Community Landcare Conference are now open!

To register online go to the Landcare SA website and follow the link: www.landcaresa.asn.au/



Win \$1000 cash by developing a one minute YouTube clip promoting the grains industry – Enter NOW!

Supported by the South Australian Grains Industry Trust and the Grains Research and Development Corporation, the 2015 Seed to Store – The Story of Australian Grain YouTube clip competition simply involves filming your favourite aspects of the grains industry, creating a cool little clip and then entering it into the 2015 Royal Adelaide Show competitive YouTube section. Entries can be accepted from across Australia. There is a student and community section with both first prize winners receiving \$1000!!

This competition gives you a platform to shine! How you ask? Well... This year we have Andrew 'Cosi' Costello from South Aussie with Cosi on board as our grains ambassador. He will be judging the competition with SAGIT and GRDC representatives and promoting the winning clip via the main stage at the 2015 Royal Adelaide Show plus a range of media outlets (including his facebook pages which have over 100,000 friends!). Did we also mention the winners will receive \$1000 cash?!

On a serious note, this competition aims to increase community engagement in sustainable Australian farming, the science of food production and the cutting edge research and development backing the Australian grains industry. Think of the clip as a commercial to promote the grains industry...

The judges (nope not me ☺ so I can't take bribes!) will be looking for videos which capture the breadth of the industry from best practice farming, innovation, scientific research, technology, food production and the consumer (delicious products!).

Enter as an individual or a team and enter as many times as you like! Entry is \$10 per video clip. Entries close 5.00pm on Friday, August 21, 2015.

The top five entries for each category will receive free admission to the show on Tuesday, September 8, for the blue ribbon presentations. The entry prize schedule is attached for your reference. It can also be viewed online at: <http://theshow.com.au/showground/royal-adelaide-show/show-entries-results/schedules-entry-forms.jsp>

For more information about the competition, entry support, or to access our stock footage library (which has some handy footage of harvest etc in action), contact Sarah McDonnell sarah.mcdonnell@agcommunicators.com.au



SEED TO STORE
The Story of Australian Grain

Stop the Spot!

Growers and advisors are being encouraged to send in samples of leaves with yellow spot and join researchers in the fight against yellow spot.

Results from the first year of the *Stop the Spot* campaign have shown that national monitoring of yellow spot is essential, with preliminary analysis suggesting there may be an increase in the severity of the disease. The Curtin University and Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) campaign will continue in 2015, aiming to develop tools and markers for wheat breeders to help them release more resistant varieties for growers.



Caroline Moffat, leader of the Yellow Spot program at the Centre for Crop and Disease Management, said from the 189 samples received in 2014, there was evidence of a change in virulence between Australia's western and eastern cropping areas, making 2015's *Stop the Spot* more important than ever. "One of the more interesting findings from 2014 was that yellow spot isolates were recovered even from moderately resistant varieties," Dr Moffat said.

"This just shows how vital it is that we continually monitor yellow spot across the country so that we are best placed to respond to any changes in the pathogen population – the more samples we receive, the better we can keep track of new strains and stay vigilant," she said.

How *Stop the Spot* helps researchers fight yellow spot, genetically

Yellow spot causes national wheat crop losses of \$212 million, plus control costs of \$463 million per annum. In hard hits areas, losses can exceed \$30 per hectare.

By sending in leaf samples of yellow spot, researchers at the CCDM will be able to develop genetic tools for breeders, monitor biosecurity risks and have an understanding of how the pathogen may be changing in the paddock. The yellow spot fungus disease, caused by the necrotrophic fungal pathogen *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis*, is stubble-borne and secretes "effectors" - which are proteins secreted by the fungal pathogen that cause disease symptoms.

These effectors kill the cells of the wheat host, allowing the fungus to colonise the plant and feed from it. Dr Moffat said three effectors have already been found and described, with the most damaging effector –ToxA , which is supplied to wheat breeders to allow them to discard varieties that show sensitivity to this protein.

"However, results from *Stop the Spot* 2014 showed signs of other unidentified effectors, which my team will try to identify and provide to breeders on the path to creating more resistant varieties," she said.

Key Findings from the results

For the full report, [click here](#). The main findings following genetic and molecular analysis of 189 samples across Australia include:

- Yellow Spot infection was widespread across Australia

- Even moderately resistant wheat varieties were infected

- The presence of ToxA all of the 2014 Yellow Spot strains reiterates the importance of using ToxA insensitive varieties in areas under high disease pressure, such as Mace and Magenta.

- ToxB, another effector that has been identified and described, was not detected in any sample, but poses a biosecurity risk

- Preliminary analysis suggests an increase in strain virulence and one to two pathotypes

- There are still unidentified effectors produced by Australian strains of Yellow Spot.

I have yellow spot, what do I do now?

Please visit www.stopthespot.com.au for sampling instructions. Besides helping researchers develop new genetic tools that improve wheat yields, you will also receive feedback on your sample, confirming if it is yellow spot or not.

For information on how to manage the disease visit:

GRDC Yellow Spot Fact Sheet: www.grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-YellowSpotWest

GRDC Cereal Foliar Fungal Diseases Supplement: www.grdc.com.au/GCS110



Pasture update

BIGG and the Grasslands Society of South Australia are excited to bring you the Pasture Update "Making dollars and sense from pastures and your farm business" August 25 at Nuriootpa.

We've brought together an all-star line up of speakers to provide you with the latest insights and research to help improve your productivity and profitability, and thanks to MLA, attendance is only \$25, including lunch!

Featuring:

- Marcus and Shannon Sounness, MLA Challenge farmers, Amelup, WA: Role of daughter-in-law in the family farm and improving farm profit by turning off lambs at a lighter weight and focussing on kg meat/ha.
- Basil Doonan, Macquarie Franklin, Devonport, Tasmania: Farming and logical business decision making, focussing on profit drivers in a pasture based grazing system and the "myth" about getting big or getting out, and the relationship between farm size and profitability.
- Alan Humphries, Leader, National Lucerne breeding programme, SARDI, Waite Institute: New lucerne varieties and the place for lucerne on your farm.
- Jeff Braun, Agrilink Consultants, Clare: Productivity of cereals and canola for grazing and grain.
- Cameron Allan, MLA: MLA feed base research update.
- Therese McBeath, CSIRO, Adelaide: MLA funded current research. Phosphorus efficiency in pastures. Where does all the P go?
- Leighton Pearce, Growing solutions, Berri: Using drones to assess and manage pastures, live-stock and water supplies. Drones will be on display

Facilitated session in small groups What piece of information will you take home from today and use at home? What further information will you require (if any)?

Date: Tuesday 25 August, 2015

Time: 8.30am for 8.55 am start. Finish 3.30pm

Venue: Nuriootpa Football Club, Nuriootpa Centennial Park, Penrice Road, Nuriootpa

Admission: \$25 includes lunch and morning tea

RSVP: By Friday 21 August to Rebecca Barr ph 0402 788 526, admin@biggroup.org.au or complete the [registration form](#)

Further details: Brett Nietschke 0432 804 389 or Tim Prance 0427 812 655

[View the event flyer](#)

Options for Crop Topping Canola

<http://www.weedsmart.org.au/bulletin-board/crop-topping-canola/>

One downside of the widespread production of canola is the increase in clethodim resistant annual ryegrass populations on many farms across southern Australia.

What's the best option for crop topping canola?

Dr Chris Preston, University of Adelaide (UA) Associate Professor—Weed Management says growers are noticing that in some areas clethodim may be only suppressing rather than controlling ryegrass. "All tactics in the weed management program need to minimise seed set," he says. "End of season control measures have been limited to narrow windrow burning in canola and this is not always a practical option for growers."

Through a GRDC funded trial Dr Preston investigated the pre-harvest use of a number of herbicides, looking at efficacy, crop safety and residue levels. "Our trials concluded that only glyphosate was effective and safe to use for pre-harvest weed control in canola," he says.



Nufarm's weedmaster® DST® is the only glyphosate product registered for pre-harvest weed control in canola, providing another tool to reduce weed seed set.

This research supported the registration of Nufarm's weedmaster® DST® as the only glyphosate product registered for pre-harvest application in canola.

Dr Preston, who is also Chair of the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group says that, once again, glyphosate has proved to be a valuable chemical but a word of caution is required. "Pre-harvest weed control with glyphosate must not be over-used in the rotation. It is essential that many other non-glyphosate measures are also being used in a weed management strategy."

"Keep track of how often you are applying glyphosate across the rotation and include as much diversity as possible," he says. "For example, if you use glyphosate for pre-harvest control in canola it would be wise to use a different harvest weed seed control tactic in your cereal crop and consider paraquat as a better choice to crop top pulses."

"Both over the top and under the windrow applications are equally effective as weed seed set control measures," he says. "Efficacy is reduced in hot, dry weather conditions so an over the top crop topping application offers some extra flexibility provided growers have access to a self-propelled boom with sufficient clearance. In some situations this will make direct harvesting a more practical option too."

A harvest weed seed operation, such as narrow windrow burning, will also assist to remove any survivors and help prolong the efficacy of glyphosate across the rotation.

For more information and the full chemical rates and usage details: <http://www.weedsmart.org.au/bulletin-board/crop-topping-canola/>

Upcoming Events Calendar

August 2015

- 6 UNFS Annual Field Day and AGM
- 13 GRDC Research Update, Kadina. ORM www.orm.com.au
- 10 GRDC Septoria Technical Workshop, Naracoorte, [Deb Baum](#) 0448 840 232
- 10 Rhizoctonia & Seeding Systems - Crop Walk, Geranium, [Adam Morgan](#) 0407 395 918
- 11 Sheep Genetics Regional Forum, Cleve [Nicole Williams](#) 02 6773 2948
- 11 SANTFA Precision Seeding Crop Walk, Owen, [Clare Gutsche](#) 8841 4500
- 11 SANTFA Precision Seeding Crop Walk, Balaklava, [Clare Gutsche](#) 8841 4500
- 12 Fertcare Nitrogen Use Efficiency Workshop, Naracoorte [Jeff Kraak](#) 0407 663 535
- 12 BIGG Grasslands Soil Analysis, Keyneton, [Rebecca Barr](#) 0402 788 526
- 13 GRDC Grains Research Update for Growers, Waikerie [ORM Communications](#) 03 5441 6176
- 13 GRDC Grains Research Update, Kadina, [Matt McCarthy](#) 03 5441 6176
- 14 SANTFA Crop Walk, Point Pass, [Clare Gutsche](#) 8841 4500
- 18 Money Making Mums (ewe production) Webinar Session 2, Danielle@aginnovate.com.au
- 20 GRDC Grains Research Update for Growers, Cleve, [ORM Communications](#) 03 5441 6176
- 21 GRDC Grains Research Update for Growers, Kimba [ORM Communications](#) 03 5441 6176
- 21 GRDC Grains Research Update for Growers, Minnipa [ORM Communications](#) 03 5441 6176
- 23 - 25 Stubble Project Grower Trip, Geelong - Inverleigh - Horsham - St Arnaud, [BCG](#) 03 5492 2787
- 24 Livestock Workshop, YPSAG Minlaton [Kristin McEvoy](#) 08 8853 2241
- 25 BIGG Pasture Update: Making dollars and sense from pastures and your farm business, [Rebecca Barr](#) 0402 788 526
- 26-29 ACTFA Annual Conference Mildura info@actfa.net

September 2015

- 1 Karoonda Field Day, [MSF](#) 03 5024 5835
- 2 Minnipa Agricultural Centre Annual Field Day – Celebrating 100 Years Leala Hoffmann, 8680 5104
- 2-3 SPAA Annual Conference [Nicole Dimos](#) 0437 422 000
- 7 - 8 18th PA Symposium, SPAA, Wagga Wagga, [Nicole Dimos](#) 0437 422 000
- 9 BCG Main Field Day [Ciara Cullen](#) 03 5492 2787
- 10 UNFS Eastern Spring Crop Walk. Date for Western Spring Crop walk TBA.
- 13-16 Australian Barley Technical Symposium, Manly www.abtsbarley.info/
- 14-16 State Landcare Conference: Waikerie. <http://www.landcaresa.asn.au/node/102>
- 15 Hart Field Day [Sandy Kimber](#) 0427 423 154
- 18 - 19 Riverland Field Days, Barmera, [Tim Grieger](#) 0409 099 122
- 22 Money Making Mums (Ewe Production) Webinar session 3, Danielle@aginnovate.com.au
- 29/30/1 Yorke Peninsula Field Days - Paskeville

October 2015

- 9 SPAA Expo, Horsham, [Nicola Dimos](#) 0437 422 000
- 15 GRDC Farm Business Update, Adelaide [ORM Communications](#) 03 5441 6176
- 20 Hart Spring Twilight Walk [Sandy Kimber](#) 0427 423 154
- 22 Money Making Mums (ewe production) Webinar Session 4, Danielle@aginnovate.com.au

November 2015

- 13 GRDC Farm Business Update for Advisers Adelaide [ORM Communications](#) 03 5441 6176

Disclaimer: The UNFS Update has been prepared in good faith on the basis of information available at the date of publication without any independent verification. Upper North Farming Systems (UNFS) does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy, reliability, completeness or currency of the information in this publication nor its usefulness in achieving any purpose. Readers are responsible for assessing the relevance and accuracy of the content of this publication. UNFS will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or arising by reason of any person using or relying on information in this publication.



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