

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

February 2016

Getting your chemical where you need it to be to make it work...Do you know how to spray effectively?

Ruth Sommerville

UNFS is kick starting 2016 with a focus on improving your chemical application, making it more effective resulting in fewer resistance issues and maximising the bang for your buck in controlling weeds and pests.

Through the GRDC funded Stubble Initiative we are holding two Spray Application Workshops, at Wandearah on March 9th and at Booleroo Centre on February 23rd. These workshops will explore;

- Nozzle types, Tank mixes and Adjuvants,
- The effect of speed, boom height and pressure on spray quality and droplet placement,
- Weather conditions for spraying

In addition a number of farmer spray units will be at each day to allow for discussion on set-up and decision making on a practical level. The afternoon workshop will be followed by a BBQ and inspection of the spray dye after sunset. For more information see the flier on page 4.

We have set up a number of trial sites during harvest last season and will be exploring them in detail throughout the year as well as a broad range of other topics. 2016 activities target the following issues faced in the Upper North; Grazing Stubbles - Case Studies, Herbicide efficacy under different stubble loads - trial sites, Fleabane management - trial site, Variable Rate Nitrogen Application - demonstration site, Role of Stubble in N availability throughout the season - demonstration site, Harvest Height and its effect on harvest and seeding efficiency, efficacy and cost of production - case studies and demonstration sites, Yield Prophet and Production Wise modelling sites, Weed control through non-chemical methods, Controlled Traffic Farming sites...and many more extension activities. We look forward to seeing you at one of our site visits or field days, engaging in discussion on our Facebook Page or getting involved with one of our Hubs.

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Upper North Farming Systems Spray Workshops



Tuesday 23rd February - Booleroo Centre

Wednesday 9th of March - Wandearah



3.30PM - 9PM

A workshop aimed at ensuring that you get the right coverage from your spray unit in all stubble situations. Come along to learn more about the following topics; to catch up over a BBQ and to check out how your neighbours have set up their spray units.

Where and When

Tuesday, 23rd of February - 3.30PM - Booleroo Centre Complex and Todd Orrock's paddock adjacent to the airstrip

Wednesday, 9th of March - 3.30PM - Chris Crouch's Paddock, 5km south on the North-South Road, Wandearah,

3.30PM - 7PM Technical Presentations, Spray Demonstrations, Spray Unit Inspections

7PM - BBQ Dinner

8PM - Spray Dye Application Inspections

9PM - Wrap Up

All Welcome - RSVP for catering appreciated

Admission: \$20 for non-members and \$10 for members (includes BBQ dinner)

Contact: Ruth Sommerville: 0401042223, email: unfs@outlook.com

www.facebook.com/UpperNorthFarmingSystems

These workshops are funded through the GRDC Stubble Initiative

NELSHABY AG BUREAU & UNFS HUB



CONSULTANTS DAY



Monday February 15th-

Napperby Tennis Club

1PM - 5PM - BBQ tea to follow

Guest Consultant: Mick McLaughlin:

University of Adelaide and GRDC Southern Panel Member

Topics Include:

- Zinc Nutrition
- Trace Elements and their role in plant development
- Phosphorous Nutrition
- Alternate sources of P and other nutrients

All Welcome - RSVP for catering appreciated

Contact: Chris Crouch: 0438 848311, email: crouch_19@hotmail.com

www.facebook.com/UpperNorthFarmingSystems

Your invitation to participate in the Grain Producers SA 2015-16 Post-Harvest Survey

For many grain producers, harvest is complete, the machinery is back in the shed and it's time to think about your annual holiday. Before you head off, GPSA invites you to participate in our annual post harvest survey.

The survey consists of only nine short questions so it won't take long to complete and the information gathered is extremely valuable in helping us to better represent you, the grower.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/RPC68QL



Better Money Management

Financial Workshops for Regional Women

SUPPORTED NATIONALLY BY RABOBANK



The workshop will:

- Give you an understanding of the basic asset classes - cash, shares, property
- Give you an overview of reducing risk, diversification, and dollar cost averaging
- Provide ways to build your financial nest egg
- Allow you to document clear life and financial goals and work on a practical, personal long term plan and action chart for the next 12 months

- Provide you with the tools to lay solid financial foundations: learn how managing your long term saving and investing can help you achieve what you want to do in your life
- Help you understand where you can go for more information and further development

Workshop details: Wednesday 23 March 2016 at Clare: 9:30am – 3:30pm

RSVP: Click [here](#) to register and more details will be sent to you soon

For more details, visit <http://www.10thousandgirl.com.au>

Rabobank Clare are a 2015-2016 Silver Sponsor of UNFS



Rabobank

PRODUCTION *Wise*[®]
ONLINE CROP MANAGEMENT



GRAIN GROWERS are a 2015/16 Silver Sponsor of UNFS. The Booleroo Event is being hosted by the Booleroo Hub. An additional event can be run by the Jamestown Hub on the afternoon of the 8th if there is sufficient interest. Each UNFS Hub will be running a ProductionWise Paddock this year to enable our members to see the modelling results available for in crop decision making.

FREE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Improve your farm management efficiencies

ProductionWise provides growers, farm managers and advisers the ability to map, record, monitor and manage farm activities while providing a range of unique decision support tools that assist in making informed management decisions.

- All your cropping records including inputs, grain production, sales and contracts & spray records stored securely on one platform
- Make better decisions with easy to use analysis and support tools
- Streamlined communication with your adviser or agronomist
- Mobile App for offline paddock data entry with simple data syncing
- Monitor your climatic exposure near real-time for your farms

Interested in learning all this and much more about ProductionWise, Australia's leading online and most powerful crop management programme?

YOU'RE INVITED TO:

- Tues 2nd Feb • Loxton Hotel • 8.30am – 12.00pm
- Tues 16th Feb • Kaniva Link Neighbourhood Centre • 9.00am – 12.30pm
- Wed 24th Feb • Cleve Area School – Sims Farm • 1.30pm – 4.30 pm
- Thurs 25th Feb • Kimba Golf Club • 8.30am – 12.00pm
- Wed 2nd Mar • Karoonda Football Club • 8.30am – 12.00pm
- Tues 8th Mar • Booleroo Centre • 8.30am – 12.00pm
- Wed 9th Mar • Clare • 8.30am – 12.00pm

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN ATTENDING, contact David Evans, your local SA Regional Coordinator on 0437 176 280 or email david.evans@graingrowers.com.au
MORE INFORMATION: www.productionwise.com.au

Download on the
App Store

ANDROID APP ON
Google play


**Grain
Growers**

P School & N MasterClass

Phosphorus is a challenge to manage, and vital to be understood for crop production.

P School will provide you the opportunity to learn how phosphorus works and how to make better farm management decisions, learning with some of the world's leading phosphorus researchers and educators.

N MasterClass – Where does mineralisation fit in managing N? Nitrogen is a major cost input for growers who want efficient use of nutrient applied and to understand environmental influences on their nitrogen applications and availability.

This **N MasterClass** will discuss the nitrogen cycle and N for crop production. Covering all aspects of N fertiliser, legume rotations and cover crops will be discussed along with important new analysis techniques to improve N management on farm.

Wednesday 17th February & Thursday February 18th 2016, Clare Country Club

**REGULAR ATTENDANCE \$190 inc. GST.
AFFILIATE INDUSTRY GROUP \$145 inc. GST**

With Instructors Dr Sean Mason and Dr Annie McNeill

More information: Darren Cribbes 0400 600 556 or Owen McCarron 0419 006 100



**UNFS Members
eligible for Affiliate
Group Discount Rate**

Modest enhancements to conventional grassland diversity improve the provision of pollination services

Excerpt from Journal of Applied Ecology - www.journalofappliedecology.org by Katherine A Orford online manuscript Jan 8 2016; Introduction Ruth Sommerville

Introduction

The role of pollinators in the viable production of a number of our crops is being explored by many projects in Australia currently. This article is an interesting piece from Europe. The results are transferable to all environments and are a good insight into how healthy, diverse ecosystems can lead to more profitable and productive farming systems.

Summary

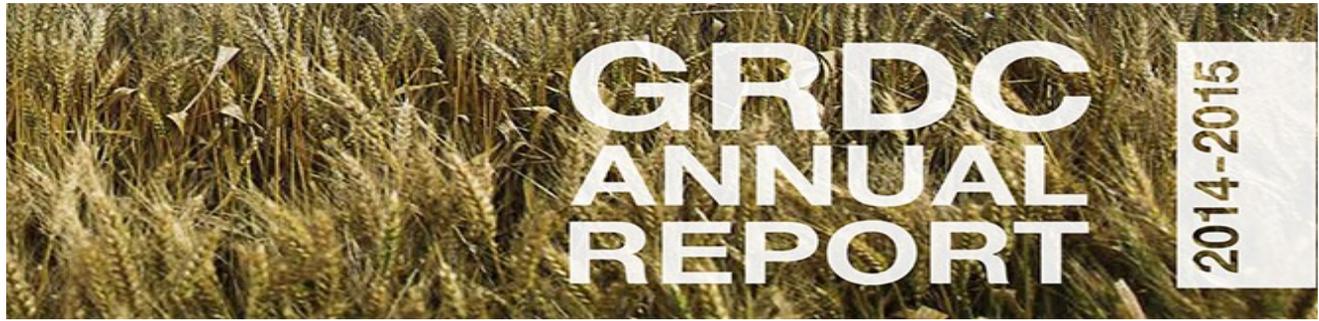
1. Grassland for livestock production is a major form of land use throughout Europe and its intensive management threatens biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in agricultural landscapes. Modest increases to conventional grassland biodiversity could have considerable positive impacts on the provision of ecosystem services, such as pollination, to surrounding habitats.

2. Using a field-scale experiment in which grassland seed mixes and sward management were manipulated, complemented by surveys on working farms and phytometer experiments, the impact of conventional grassland diversity and management on the functional diversity and ecosystem service provision of pollinator communities were investigated.

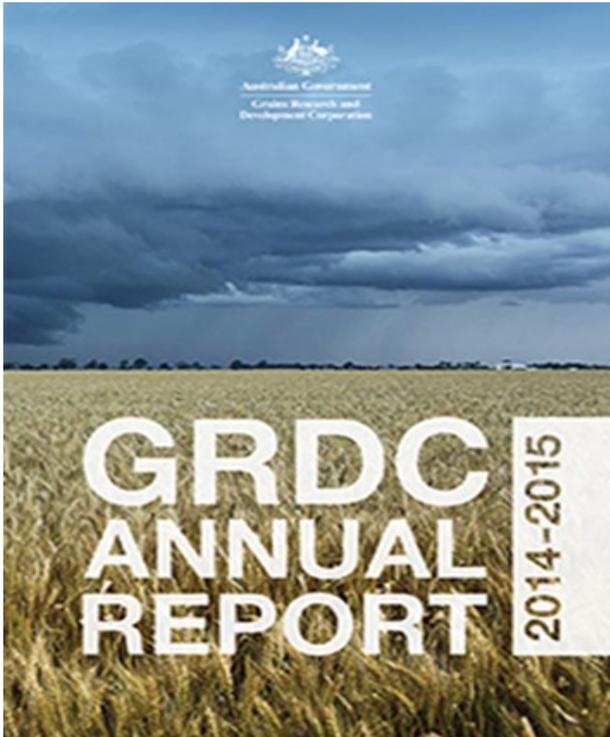
3. Increasing plant richness, by the addition of both legumes and forbs, was associated with significant enhancements in the functional diversity of grassland pollinator communities. This was associated with increased temporal stability of flower–visitor interactions at the community-level. Visitation networks revealed pasture species *Taraxacum* sp. (Wigg.) and *Cirsium arvense* (Scop.) to have the highest pollinator visitation frequency and richness.

4. Increased sward richness was associated with an increase in the pollination of two phytometer species; *Fragaria × ananassa* and *Silene dioica*, but not *Vicia faba*. Enhanced functional diversity, richness and abundance of the pollinator communities associated with more diverse neighbouring pastures were found to be potential mechanisms for improved pollination.

5. Synthesis and applications. A modest increase in conventional grassland plant diversity with legumes and forbs, achievable with the expertise and resources available to most grassland farmers, could enhance pollinator functional diversity, richness and abundance. Moreover, our results suggest that this could improve pollination services and consequently surrounding crop yields (e.g. strawberry) in agro-ecosystems..



The GRDC works in partnership with growers, advisers, researchers and other industry stakeholders to maintain the sustainability and profitability of the Australian grains industry. As in any industry, we have to challenge ourselves to remain competitive, to ensure that we not only survive but prosper. A healthy, profitable and world-leading grains industry is not just in the best interests of growers, it is in the best interests of all Australians.



Grains industry production

In 2014-15, total winter crop production in Australia declined by 8 percent to 38.4 million tonnes as a result of drier seasonal conditions across the country.

Winter crop production in Victoria declined by 19 percent to 5.5 million tonnes, the lowest level since 2009-10, while in Western Australia production fell by 12 percent relative to the large 2013-14 crop.

Queensland and New South Wales also experienced declines in winter crop production of between 6 percent and 7 percent.

The area planted to summer grain, oilseed and pulse crops (excluding rice and cottonseed) decreased by around 9 percent in 2014-15.

The following production figures were recorded for the major winter crops:

- Wheat production declined by around 7 percent to 23.7 million tonnes
- Barley production declined by around 13 percent to 8.0 million tonnes
- Canola production declined by around 11 percent to 3.4 million tonnes.

GRDC performance

In 2014-15, the GRDC invested more than \$194 million in 942 RD&E projects ranging from small short-term, solution-orientated projects to long-term strategic initiatives that will deliver step-change breakthroughs to complex problems, such as herbicide resistance and frost. This annual report provides specific information on the key performance indicators that keep the GRDC's annual operations and expenditure in line with the targets of its Strategic R&D Plan 2012-17, the Agriculture portfolio budget objectives and industry and government priorities. We continue to achieve good results across all these measures.

For further information or to download the GRDC Annual Report 2014-15, go to the GRDC website www.grdc.com.au/Annual-Report.

Cutting subsidies is good news for growers but won't ensure market share

Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre, Media Release - TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER 2015

The Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre (AEGIC) has welcomed The World Trade Organization's (WTO) agreement to abolish all agriculture export subsidies. AEGIC Chair, Terry Enright, said the removal of the subsidies should make Australia more competitive against most other grain exporters.

"Australia has very low levels of subsidies compared to many of its major competitors which means our growers have not been competing on a level playing field.

"Australian grain producers have been feeling the cost-price squeeze for some time now and having to compete with subsidized countries has been compounding this in terms of profitability and long-term viability."

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) stated producer support estimates, or subsidies, as a percentage of gross farm receipts were 7.1 per cent for the US, 13.5% for Russia, 14.3% for Canada and 19% for the European Union.

In contrast, producer support estimates in Australia sit at only 2.7%. Mr Enright cautioned while the agreement is positive it will have less impact for Australian growers in cases where competitors had similar or lower levels of producer support to Australia, an example being Ukraine.

"Australia is facing increasing competition from emerging low cost grain producers, such as Ukraine which has about half the level of subsidies when compared to Australia, so the WTO agreement will not improve Australia's competitiveness against Ukraine."

"Australia also faces an increasingly challenging production environment. There is an ongoing need for research, supported by industry and government, to cost-effectively boost Australian production and assist its grain industries to adapt and adjust to climate change."

AEGIC is currently analysing the competitiveness of the Australian export grains industry compared with its major competitors. These analyses are showing the productivity of Australia's grain production is growing slower than what it needs to be in order to maintain market share. A report comparing Australia with Canada 'The puck stops here! Canada challenges Australia's grain supply chains' released earlier this year found Australian supply chains lack the rail efficiency of the Canadian supply chains and identified key areas where Australia can improve its competitiveness.

"Grain exports have totalled about \$9 billion annually over the past four years making it Australia's most valuable agricultural export and it is vital the sector examines the competitive pressures coming from other grain-producing nations," Mr Enright said. The ultimate aim is to enhance the international competitiveness and value of Australia's export grain and to return pre-farm gate value to grain growers."

In the Loop:
Industry intelligence for
export grain producers



Australian Wool Production Forecast Report: December 2015

The Woolmark Company Woolgrowers Newsletter- Tuesday, 22 December 2015

The Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee (AWPFC) has revised its forecast of shorn wool production for the 2015/16 season to 322 million kilograms greasy, a 7.0% decline on the estimate of 346 mkg for the 2014/15 season.

Decline in Australian wool production in 2015/16 greater than expected

The Australian Wool Production Forecasting Committee (AWPFC) has revised its forecast of shorn wool production for the 2015/16 season to 322 million kilograms greasy, a 7.0% decline on the estimate of 346 mkg for the 2014/15 season.

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Committee Chairman, Russell Pattinson commented that “seasonal conditions in a number of the major sheep producing regions in Australia have been drier than expected over Spring which has resulted in lower fleece weights and, more recently, reports of increased sheep turn-off. Victoria, Tasmania, the south-east and north-west of South Australia, and the Great Southern region in Western Australia have all experienced difficult seasons. Among other things this has caused problems with stock water availability.

“The major sheep regions of Queensland continue to see very tough conditions and the sell-off of sheep continues in that state. Even in New South Wales, there are areas where seasonal conditions have been more difficult than expected. These tough conditions are only being partially offset by good to very good conditions in north-eastern South Australia and parts of New South Wales.”

The 7% decline comes following six season of relatively stable wool production of between 340 and 350 mkg greasy.

The AWPFC’s final estimate of shorn wool production for the 2014/15 season is 346 mkg, an increase of 1.7% over the previous season. As noted in August, this increase is in line with, but less than, the increase seen in AWTA tests, ABS wool receivals and AWEX auction offerings for 2014/15. Some of the increase in wool tests, receivals and auction offerings late in the 2014/15 season was attributed to the release of on-farm stocks held over from previous seasons as well as the forward offering of wool held in brokers’ stores and earlier than usual deliveries of recently shorn wool in response to the spike in wool prices in May and June. It is expected that, as these stocks will not be available in 2015/16, the AWTA test data and ABS receivals data in 2015/16 will fall by more than the decline in production.

The Committee noted that for the 2015/16 season to November, the AWTA test data showed a reduction in volumes of wool between 20.6 and 24.5 microns, with smaller declines for finer Merino wool and for Crossbred wool. This resulted in a 0.1 micron decline in the mean fibre diameter for Australia to November.

Table 1: Summary of wool production estimates and forecasts for Australia Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

Table 2: Total shorn wool production by state - 2014/15 and 2015/16 Note: Totals may not add due to rounding

mkg greasy	QLD	NSW	VIC	TAS	SA	WA	National
2013/14 Final Estimate (mkg)	10.8	125.2	70.5	10.2	52.0	71.8	341
2014/15 Final Estimate (mkg)	9.1	130.0	72.6	10.8	56.5	67.2	346
Change y-o-y %	-15.4%	+3.8%	+3.0%	+5.8%	+8.7%	-6.4%	+1.7%
2015/16 Third Forecast (mkg)	5.6	120.8	67.5	9.7	54.8	63.8	322
Change y-o-y %	-38.7%	-7.1%	-7.1%	-10.2%	-3.1%	-5.0%	-7.0%

The National Committee drew on advice from the six State Committees, each of which includes growers, brokers, private treaty merchants, representatives from State Departments of Agriculture, and the Australian Wool Testing Authority. Data and input was also drawn from AWEX, wool exporters, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, ABARES, AWTA and Meat and Livestock Australia.

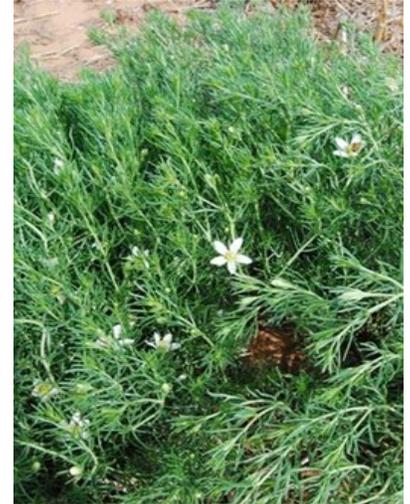
It's time to hit those summer weeds

Excerpts from Yakka Newsletter January 2016

It might be dry and it's certainly hot, but many summer-growing weeds are thriving. Dry conditions across Northern and Yorke region are suppressing growth in some summer-growing weeds. But deep-rooted, drought resistant perennials like African rue are flourishing especially through the Broughton catchment. Annual weeds like caltrop will respond rapidly after a rain, germinating within days and producing fruit in just a few weeks. Landholders and volunteers need to be ready to act quickly to prevent new populations from establishing and adding more seed to soil seed banks.

Summer season weeds to watch include:

- **caltrop** - prostrate summer annual
- **silverleaf nightshade** - perennial herb
- **African rue** - small perennial shrub
- **khaki weed** - prostrate perennial herb
- **innocent weed** - small annual grass
- **creeping knapweed** - deep-rooted perennial herb
- **buffel grass** - perennial tussock grass



Biosecurity SA's *Weed control handbook for declared plants in South Australia - July 2015 edition*, is a very useful resource, providing images, herbicide product information, application methods and rates and other information for declared plants. Copies are available from the Natural Resources Centre in Clare. Priority weed fact sheets for each district are available from district offices across Northern and Yorke region, or <http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/northernandyorke/home>

For advice and information about summer weed control contact district Landscapes Team Leaders through the **Natural Resource Centre** on 8841 3400.



Wool 4 School Australia Competition

Wool4School is a real-life fashion design experience, with big rewards available for both students and teachers. Open to students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Wool4School sets the challenge to design an original outfit made from one of the world's most innovative and natural fibres - Australian Merino wool - and go in the running to win part of \$10,000 worth of prizes. Teachers can also take part in the competition, by incorporating the lesson plans into their classroom. Resources are also available to support the lesson plans that coincide with the Australian Curriculum. Have you got what it takes to design a outfit for your favourite Australian sports team? This year Wool4School is asking you to design an innovative and creative male or female sports outfit that conveys the Aussie team spirit. The outfit should be made from at least 70% Australian Merino wool and suitable for your favourite team to wear during their match or medal ceremony. The outfit must contain a minimum of one piece with a maximum of four pieces (each) which excludes the wool accessory Don't forget to add a wool accessory to your design. This is purely a design competition, you don't actually need to make the outfit; we just want your sketched designs. So get designing, encourage your friends and teachers to join the nation's number one design competition, Wool4School. More details can be found at <http://www.wool4school.com.au>



The EAD Hotline– it's like triple 0 for rural industry

By Rachel Gordon, Livestock Biosecurity Network

Farmers are best placed to quickly identify an exotic or endemic disease, plants or pests, It's your land, your animals, and you work there everyday.

Many on-farm biosecurity practices are free or inexpensive to implement. These practices can mean the difference between a productive and disease-free enterprise, or the introduction of diseases like Ovine Johne's disease, footrot, Bovine Johne's disease or multi-resistant worms in sheep.

Prevention is always the best approach. But should you suspect anything is amiss, who are you going to call? I presented at a farm biosecurity workshop recently and all the participants went away with two new numbers in their phone.

The EAD Hotline is manned 24 hours a day, and it is a vital part of your toolkit to manage biosecurity on farm. Reporting a suspected EAD or unusual symptoms in your livestock can be done in several ways; in NSW you can phone your Local Land Services Vet



Department of Primary Industries vet or a private vet. If it is out of business hours, or you don't have those numbers, phone the EAD hotline. The EAD hotline is also utilised by vets needing to get a sample to a lab out of hours for issues such as anthrax exclusions, Hendra Virus or Australian Bat Lyssavirus due to their public health implications. But then who should you call?

If you notice unusual clinical signs of disease in your livestock such as lameness, sudden deaths, diarrhoea, salivation or nasal discharge you should call a vet or the EAD hotline.

It's worth noting that the signs can be vague and subtle, or spectacular. It's not up to you, the livestock producer, to decide if you have an exotic disease in your herd or flock, but it is your responsibility to notify someone quickly if you spot something unusual.

Similarly any unusual plant pest should be reported immediately to the relevant state or territory agriculture agency through the Exotic Plant Pest Hotline.

Early reporting increases the chance of effective control and eradication. Early recognition of a serious or exotic animal disease is one of the most important factors influencing the chance of controlling the disease and reducing its economic and social impact on the whole community. By remaining vigilant and reporting as soon as you suspect and emergency animal disease, you can play a vital role in protecting livestock industries and preventing disease spread to animals or potential spread to humans.

Now it's time to put these numbers in your phone:

The Emergency Animal Diseases (EAD)Hotline is 1800 675 888.

The Exotic Plant Pest Hotline is 1800 08 881.

For more information about on-farm biosecurity contact: Rachel Gordon, Livestock Biosecurity Network, 0488 400 207 or rgordon@lbn.org.au

Australian Canola for the EU

AEGIC In the Loop Newsletter December 2015

AEGIC and the Australian Oilseed Federation have combined to jointly fund an industry research program that seeks to document the greenhouse gas emissions from Australian canola production.

The purpose is to be able to supply evidence to the relevant authorities in the European Union that canola from Australia is a suitable feedstock for biodiesel production because of its relatively low emissions.

Australia's second-most valuable export to the EU is canola. In 2013-14 Australia exported A\$876 million worth of canola to the EU, mostly as feedstock for biodiesel production.

Low-emission feedstocks are going to be more preferred in coming years which potentially has serious implications for Australia's canola exports to the EU. In recent years the EU has paid a price premium for Australian non-GM canola of between A\$10 to \$50 per tonne.

Led by Dr Sandra Eady of the CSIRO, a project team of Australian and European experts, has been collating data, undertaking analyses and providing advice and guidance such that eventually a report on the emissions from canola production in different States of Australia can be produced, aligned to the reporting requirements of the relevant EU authorities.

The project team and steering group met at CSIRO in Perth in December to examine progress and assess what further actions were required in 2016.

The 2014-2015 AEGIC Annual Report is now available at <http://www.aegic.org.au/>

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SAVE THE DATE

Launch of the SA Sheep Industry Blueprint

Monday April 11, 2016

Adelaide

Contact UNFS

unfs@outlook.com

Upper North Farming Systems, PO Box 323, Jamestown, SA, 5491

www.facebook.com/UpperNorthFarmingSystems

‘Let dingoes eat Kangaroos’ says University of Queensland study

ABC Rural- SA Country Hour– By Cherie Horchner

Kangaroos cost cattle producers more money than dingoes, a study into South Australia’s arid North has revealed.

More than 30 properties took part in the study into the relationship between baiting programs, kangaroos and wild canines.

University of Queensland researcher and dingo expert Ben Allen says the findings could help graziers save thousands of dollars. “One of the things we know, but haven’t done a good job quantifying, is the relationship between wild dogs, cattle and kangaroos” he said.



“We know wild dogs eat cattle, and that gives us a cost”. We also know kangaroos eat grass and that grass is not available to cattle. The tricky part of this story is that dogs will keep kangaroo numbers down, so, with every bit of dog control, there’s a trade-off”.

Photo: A dingo in outback Australia. (Supplied Invasive Australia Cooperative Research Centre)

Mr Allen said the study recommends pastoralists let dingoes off the leash in their pursuit of troublesome kangaroos. “You might get a benefit controlling dogs because you get reduced predation on your cattle, but it comes with a side-effect cost, as you’ve now got more roos”.

Mr Allen said the cost the native marsupials impose on pastoralists is hidden within the delicate balance of the outback food chain.

“We found kangaroos can cost from 13, up to 40 percent of your herd every year” he said. “On average, it’s about a quarter of the things eating your grass. “So if you can find a way to get rid of those kangaroos– and dogs will do that for you– then you basically run 25 percent more stock without having an impact on total grazing pressure.”

“The money you could make by running more stock with less roos in the system would far exceed the cost dogs will incur by chewing on your cattle”.

Mr Allen said the national mascot rob graziers of a small fortune”. “We’re talking between \$40,000 to \$100,000 in lost production to kangaroos, which is quite substantial, we’re talking the difference between a new ute every year or keeping the old one. In very few instances would dogs ever cost you that much”.

Mr Allen said the study looked at baiting programs that occurred in the last 40 years, along with the Bureau of Meteorology rain records. “We’ve got data from 1972, from every property in north South Australia’s baiting, cattle production and kangaroo records” he said. “So we’re able to correlate those things together”.

Mr Allen said it’s worthwhile for South Australian cattle producers to re-evaluate their wild dog battling programs.

“Dog control shouldn’t be an all or nothing thing, or a for or against” he said. “It’s not a case of everybody baits at the same time every year, without thinking about it. And it’s certainly not a case of not baiting either, because, when dogs want to, they can really hammer your cattle.

Continued on next page...

From previous page...

But, if I was a beef producer in SA, for the most part I'd probably leave my dogs alone and let them do their job.

But when the season turned, or they looked like they were going to get stuck into my cattle, then I'd want to be controlling those dogs pretty quickly. Then at the minute when the season changed back and they got other things to eat again, I'd ease off".

Mr Allen said for producers inside the dog fence, it's another story. "This is a study just done in arid zone beef production only" he said. "We didn't do any work in other areas: "Inside the dog fence is a completely different story". "That's because the system is very, very different. "But in principle, we should think about the pros and cons of any one of our management actions".

First posted Friday 16 January 2016, 2.56pm



Adidas on track with your wool

Getting the most out of your run

Excerpt from The Merino Website December 2015



For over 60 years adidas has been revolutionising sports shoes and how we wear them. Now, the sportswear giant has gone even further, using the natural performance of wool to make its 'greatest running shoe ever' even better. BOOST YOUR RUN Apparel and Customization Craig Vanderoef about what adidas calls the greatest running shoe ever: Ultra BOOST.

Adaptive, innovative and energy are three words used by adidas Senior Director Running Developed through state-of-the-art testing using the ARAMIS system - also used by top engineering institutions such as NASA, Boeing and Audi - ARAMIS was used to measure the movement and expansion of a runner's foot and ensure Ultra BOOST provides a full adaptive running experience.

"This was achieved through its adidas Primeknit upper and innovative Stretch Web outsole to complement the unrivalled Energy Return of its BOOST™ midsole," explains Vanderoef.

"A runner's foot can remarkably expand up to 10 mm or more in width while running. When restrained, this expansion can cause severe discomfort, friction and the leading injury in running, blisters. "Unlike other leading knit technologies the innovative adidas PRIMEKNIT pattern of Ultra BOOST provides comfortable support in less expansive areas of the foot and adaptive stretch where it's needed to deliver maximum comfort."

The innovative running shoe taps in to the natural, inherent properties of wool, including natural elasticity, breathability and the all-important resistance to odour.

"Wool provides an array of natural qualities that benefit runners and delivers a unique addition to the greatest running shoe ever, the Ultra BOOST."

See more at <http://www.merino.com/lifestyle/sports/adidas-on-track-with-wool/>

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Upcoming Events Calendar

February

9 – 10	GRDC Update for Advisors, Adelaide, ORM Communications	03 5441 6176
11	GRDC Update for Growers, Auburn, ORM Communications	03 5441 6176
15	UNFS Nelshaby Hub Ag Bureau Consultants Day	0438 848 311
16	Leasing and Share farming, Clare, Rural Directions	08 8841 4500
17	Advisory Board Workshop, Jamestown, Rural Directions	08 8841 4500
17 & 18	IPM P School and NMaster Class, Clare, Darren Cribbes	0400 600 556
18	MSF Mallee Research Updates, Renmark MSF	03 5024 5835
23	UNFS Spray Workshop– Booleroo Centre	0401 042 223
23	PA Livestock Day, Waikerie, Dimity Hunter	0427 543 384
24	PA Grains Day, Loxton, Dimity Hunter	0427 543 384
26	SPAA PA Expo, Wudinna, Nicole Dimos	0437 422 000

March

1	Identifying Cereal Root Diseases– Pinnaroo, Deb Baum	0448 840 232
8	UNFS/Grain Growers Production Wise training workshops - Booleroo Centre - David Evans or Matt Nottle	
9	UNFS Spray Workshop– Wandearah	0401 042 223
14 – 18	Upper EP Harvest Report Farmer Meetings, Naomi Scholz	0428 540 670
16	Hart Getting The Crop In Seminar, Sandy Kimber	0427 423 154
17	Septoria Fungicide Management– Riverton, Deb Baum	0448 840 232
23	Rabobank Financial Workshop for Regional Women– Clare	http://www.10thousandgirl.com

April

1 – 2	Karoonda Farm Fair, Ray Bald	0408 813 452
7 – 8	Ag Excellence Annual Forum, Adelaide, Kerry Stockman	0418 841 331
13	Nitrogen Cycling & Trace Element Management– Murray Bridge	0448 840 232

July

19	Hart Winter Walk, Sandy Kimber	0427 423 154
27	EPARF Member Day, Minnipa Agricultural Centre, Dot Brace	08 8680 6202

August

9 – 11	EP Field Days, Cleve, Renee Kelly	08 8628 2219
10 – 12	Lambex Conference, Albury, Donna Sykes	0412 778 849



Upper North Farming Systems

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New Farmers - vacant

Melrose - vacant

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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