

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

June 2019

“A Changing Landscape”

By Ruth Sommerville

Tinges of green, a glimmer of hope, a sense of trepidation and a hint of concern as winter dawns across the Upper North. It is fair to say the rains have been sufficient across much of the region to create a good germination of freshly sown crops and the start of new pastures across the landscape, though sadly it is not the case for all in the region.

It is clear that many paddocks were well managed through the past 12 months of reduced rainfall, with paddocks showing good residue cover after sowing and for the start of lambing, it is also clear that many paddocks were grazed too hard, by sheep and roos alike, and will take time and good management to recover.

I've had many chats this past week across the region about the way the start of this season has shown its hand. Many comments about the sheeting of water that happened off paddocks grazed too hard, the lack of effective rainfall due to compaction and creeks running off less than 5mls, rather than soaking into the soil profile. And of the joy at seeing green again, though sadness at the speed at which the dry led to dust storms and erosion this past summer.

I was struck by one comment however that “there is nothing that could have been done to stop the dust, to stop the loss of topsoil”, that “it was just so dry and the wind caused so much damage”.

I challenge you to take the time post seeding and lambing to look back on the past season and find what you will change, what you see as the management weakness or area to improve on. There are trigger points that in hindsight we can identify that were missed, paddocks that should have been destocked, confinement or supplementary feeding in sacrifice paddocks that should have been implemented sooner, water point management and roo harvesting that could have happened earlier, advice that should have been sought. There is always something that can be done differently, cover is king, grass and stubble with intact crowns will have effective roots to hold the soil.

This is not a criticism of any farmer, but a call out to ask you to seek the improvements, learn from the past year and make sure that whether it is this season or the one in 10 years when the spring rains aren't sufficient and the summer winds are hot and dry that we have learnt from the past and put our soils first. Our capacity to come out of the dry quickly and make the most of the rains when they do come rather than watch them blow and wash away depend on soil cover and soil health.

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That is what we at UNFS are all about, asking “how can we do that better?”, what tools and knowledge do farmers in the Upper North need to be more profitable, more resilient, more sustainable?

Hopefully this newsletter will provide some inspiration; to get along to an event, check out a trial site, follow a link to improve your knowledge or ask your neighbour about that paddock that looks like it is doing better than yours. Lets work together to set up your business and land to come out of the dry stronger and better prepared for next time...there are always things to learn, things we can do better.

I'd like to welcome many new faces to the UNFS delivery team. Rachel Trengove has joined us as a casual employee working on pulse extension and we have a large team of agronomists, some familiar faces and some new, working to deliver our projects in 2019. They will be featuring in our newsletters and at our events over the coming months. Thanks for your ongoing trial support Matt Foulis, Matt McCallum, Barry Mudge, Todd Orrock, Joe Koch, Matt Nottle, Luke Clark, Gilmore Catford and Andrew Kitto and welcome to the trials team Andrew Catford, Darren Pech, Steph Lunn, Jonno Mudge, Alex Burbury, Beth Sleep, Tom Moten and Stefan Schmitt.

We are thrilled to announce that we have received funding through the 2019 South Australian Disaster Resilience Grant Program to install a weather station network of 16 weather stations across the district. We will hopefully be launching this network at our members expo on the 1st of August, it is looking like it will be a great event, so make sure you put it in your diary!

Sadly we have said farewell to our valued Finance Officer, Mary Timms. Mary has been working remotely for many years as the Timms family have moved on to NSW. Time came for full time work to again be a priority for Mary and as such we wish her well in her new role with the NSW DPI based out of Orange. She has been a highly valuable team member and will be missed. As such I would like to announce that Kristina Mudge, our trusty admin officer and Jill of all trades, has agreed to take on the role of finance officer as well. This staffing change occurred back in May and has been a seamless transition. Thank you Kristina!

Thank You

A huge thank you to all of our trial co-operators for 2019. Todd and Brooke Orrock, Joe Koch, Andrew Kitto, Matt Nottle, Gilmore and Andrew Catford, Luke Clark, Matt and Paul Hagger, Matt McCallum, Barry Mudge and JP Carey.

Thank you for your paddock preparation and seeding skills. Great trial sites set up for the year.

Membership Details

Are your membership details up to date? We will be sending out membership renewals over the coming weeks and our 2018 Annual Compendium.

There are also some fabulous events coming up!

Make sure you have updated your details with Kristina to ensure you don't miss out!

admin@unfs.com.au

UNFS Pasture Options Demonstration

Sown on the 1st May into a dry seedbed, a pasture demonstration has been established on Andrew Kitto's property. Beth Sleep of Cox Rural is assisting Andrew with the management and monitoring of this site*. 15 different pasture species/varieties have been sown in the trial, with an additional four mixed species plantings sown at the site. In addition a MAP fertilised vs no fertiliser treatment has been applied to all pasture strips. It is intended to also undertake grazing (mechanical or with sheep) once established to compare recovery and potentially palatability.

Varieties sown include**:

1	Origin Fescue
2	Currie Cocksfoot
3	Kasbah Cocksfoot
4	Holdfast GT Phalaris
5	Balance Chicory
6	Bouncer Brassica
7	Leafmore Rape
8	Cobra Balansa Clover
9	Mawson Sub Clover
10	Lynx Medic
11	Scimitar Medic
12	SARDI Grazier Lucerne
13	GTL 60 Lucerne
14	Studenica Vetch
15	34876 Vetch



Crop establishment is well underway with the Bouncer Brassica leading the pack for early feed potential reaching 3 true leaf stage last week. Follow up rainfall this week and warm soil temperatures will see it boom over the coming weeks.

* Cox Rural Jamestown is undertaking this project support under a sponsorship arrangement with UNFS. This project is self funded by UNFS.

** Seed was provided by seed companies, re-sellers and farmers. Full details will be provided in the trial report and at field events.

AROUND THE HUBS

On May 3rd approximately 40 people attended the Morchard/Orroroo/Black Rock/Pekina hub's fencing information and display day held at the Morchard Sporting Club. Elders and Waratah provided some valuable advice on 'all things fencing' which was followed by a great networking session. Thanks to Hub reps for organising this event.



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Congratulations Michael!



Michael Richards announced as the 2019 Ag Excellence Perpetual Award Winner & State Register of Outstanding Individuals Honoured

The Ag Excellence Perpetual Award for outstanding service was awarded to Michael Richards, an absolute crowd favourite. Michael has made a substantial and long-lasting contribution to sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources within our State. Some of these achievements have included being instrumental in the formation of the Yorke Peninsula Alkaline Soils Group in the early 1990's. This group went on to pioneer the development of the farming systems group model in South Australia. Michael also played a major role in the development of Ag Ex with the aim to support the burgeoning farming systems group network.

Ag Excellence Chair, Leet Wilksch commended Michael on a well-deserved accolade. "Michael exemplifies what it is to 'go above and beyond' in his endeavour to grow our industry support and networks. We simply wouldn't have the structures in place today without the determination and ingenuity of regional advocates like Michael."



Source: <https://agex.org.au/>

Weather Station Network

In May it was announced that we were successful in gaining \$95,000 from the South Australian Disaster Resilience Grant Program to expand the Fire Danger Index Alerting Network in the Upper North Region. This will result in 16 new weather stations being installed with the information being made publicly available through our website and linked into the CFS for use during the fire season.

Leighton Wilksch, AgByte, will be installing these weather stations for us on members properties.

Sites will be determined at the coming Operations Committee Meeting.

Let your local Hub rep know if you would be keen to host one of the weather stations.





Upper North Farming Systems 2019 Members Expo 'Mixed Farming Masterclass' 1st August, 9am—5pm Booleroo Centre District Hall



Announcing our first Keynote Speaker – Joel Williams

on

“Managing soil microbial ecology along with crop & soil nutrition to optimise plant immunity, soil function and soil carbon sequestration”

www.integratedsoils.com.

The Crop Science Society of SA

is combining with the

Upper North Farming Systems & Surrounding Ag Bureau's

for a regional meeting

Wednesday, July the 17th, 7.30pm at Spalding Hall.

Save the date, and keep your eyes out for further details.

Light supper will be available at the venue after the meeting.

For more details, or membership information, contact cropssa@gmail.com or 0447 541

Visitors are always welcome!

SPONSOR'S CORNER



WINNING WITH WEANERS

LIFTING THE LIFETIME PERFORMANCE OF YOUNG MERINO SHEEP



WORKSHOP INVITATION

ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

- Learn about the short, medium and long term impacts of poor weaner management on flock productivity.
- Develop a weaner management plan for your weaners, including setting a target weaning weight, target weights at key times, and feeding options.
- This practical workshop will help you identify key management strategies that will assist you in improving the performance of your Merino weaners, thereby optimising their performance in your flock for their lifetime.

UPCOMING WORKSHOP DETAILS

Workshop location and address:

Shearing Shed, Melrose Showgrounds

Date: Thursday, 27th June 2019

Presenter: Deb Scammell

Time: 9.00 am - 3.00 pm

Cost: \$75 per person. This includes morning tea, lunch and all workshop materials.

To find out more and register visit here <https://bit.ly/2JMAQo3>



WOOL.COM

SHEEPCONNECTSA.COM.AU

Australian Wool Innovation Limited gratefully acknowledge the matching funds provided by the Australian Government to support the research and development detailed in this publication. GD2971

Register for the Melrose 'Winning with Weaners' event at : <https://bit.ly/2JMAQo3>

We are planning a second event at Jamestown in early July. To pre-register for this event email

admin@unfs.com.au

Post - event sticky beak tours planned for both days.

All welcome!



WANDEARAH
South Australia

REGIONAL CROPPING SOLUTIONS NETWORK LOCAL FORUM



GRDC invites growers and all involved in the grains industry to
GRDC Southern Region Local Forum - Wandearah

Location: **Wandearah Memorial Institute, Wandearah**

Date: **Thursday 13 June 2019**

Time: **9.00 am to 12.30 pm** (followed by lunch)

Come and discuss GRDC investment in R, D & E on behalf of grain growers with GRDC representatives.

Have your say on the important constraints and opportunities for the profitability of grain growers. Assist the GRDC to develop targeted R, D & E activities that create enduring profitability for Australian grain growers.

Learn and talk about the latest knowledge and R, D & E activities -

Increasing the productivity of sandy soils
with Dr. Therese McBeath (CSIRO)

Please RSVP for catering purposes:

via website - www.regionalcroppingsolutions.com.au or

Jen Lillecrapp

Email: jen@brackenlea.com

Phone: 0427 647 461



grdc.com.au



Livestock Advisor Update
15th August 2019
Glenelg Golf Club

15th August 2019
Glenelg Golf Club
8.30am-5.00pm
Followed by Networking dinner TBA

Suitable for Livestock
advisors, consultants,
researchers, leading
farmers, resellers,
industry representatives

PRESENTATIONS ON	
Business Development	
Reproduction	
Genetics	
Communication and Marketing	
What's up with diseases	
Pasture and Soils	
Australian Wool Innovation Update	
Meat and Livestock Australia Update	

Discussion session with AWI and MLA
farmers and advisors on issues and
opportunities for Livestock Industries

Technical Displays
Session



18 years ago, the Upper North Farming Systems group was formed with the intent of helping farmers navigate the millennial drought.

It was recognised that 'farmers leading farmers' was a valuable and efficient mechanism to improve the sustainability of the farmers and graziers in the low rainfall zone. Spear headed by local farmers, the group has remained a relevant and reliable source of agricultural information to this day.

In mid May, the group returned to Morchard, with drought once again the pivotal focus. It is important to seek practical help when faced with tough seasons; but it is equally important to care for the human side.

We were lucky enough to have Judy Wilkinson and Jeanette Long facilitate the workshop designed to help women 'Weather the Drought'. Women off the land from Craddock, Quorn, Baroota, Booleroo and everywhere in between were in attendance.

Building resilience and understanding how to support our business partners, but more importantly, our family members when times on the land are hard, is paramount in moving forward.



By Jess Koch

Welcome Rachel Trengove



I'm Rachel Trengove, I will be working as Project Officer for the Southern Pulse Extension Project as a contractor for 12 months. There will be 4 workshops to take place during this time with the UNFS Pulse Check Group.

I live near Spalding on a farm with my husband Sam and four children Lucy, Sarah, Alice and James. We run a cropping, hay and sheep enterprise along with other family members. I completed Ag Science majoring in Viticulture in 2000 at Adelaide University and worked in the wine industry for seven years. I then moved to Spalding and worked for Rural Solutions based at the Clare and Jamestown offices for a couple of years including some project work for UNFS. I have been home with my preschooler children for 10 years and have only recently started part-time work again.

I look forward to meeting the UNFS team and working with the Pulse Check Group.

Pest Animal and Weed Management Survey

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) is conducting a survey on pest animal and weed management. We are seeking assistance from owners / managers of agricultural properties to provide vital information about pest animal and weed management in Australia.

We invite you to complete the survey by 15 July 2019

Simply go to **www.agriculture.gov.au/PAWsurvey** to complete the survey.

Once you begin the survey you can not leave the survey and return. The survey should take you around 30 to 40 minutes to complete.

If you have any questions about the survey, please call the survey Helpdesk toll free on 1800 023 040 or email ipws@srcentre.com.au. The Helpdesk is managed by the Social Research Centre, the national social research company that has been contracted to conduct the fieldwork.

The research complies with the requirements of the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012. Further information about the survey can be found at **www.srcentre.com.au/PAWsurvey**



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
ABARES

Thank you for participating in this important research.

Nyree Stenekes and Rob Kancans, ABARES Research Team

Insecticide resistance management

Diamond Back Moth Control



Dr Kym Perry urges canola growers to implement best practice insecticide resistance management (IRM) tactics. PHOTO Kym Perry, SARDI

Dr Perry urges canola growers to implement five main management tactics as part of an industry-wide effort targeting insecticide resistance in the predominant species of diamondback moth,

P. xylostella.

These best practice insecticide resistance management (IRM) tactics are:

- **Only spray when necessary, using a threshold-based approach**
- **Avoid using synthetic pyrethroid insecticides (Group 3A) for control in canola crops**
- **Consider using *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Group 11A) products in insecticide rotation strategies**
- **Rotate use of insecticides - avoiding repeated use of the same chemistry in one or consecutive seasons**
- **Adjust rotations when controlling diamondback and *Helicoverpa* moth species together.**



Excerpt: GRDC Groundcover Issue 140: New DBM control Clues, by Clarisa Collis

Full article : <https://groundcover.grdc.com.au/story/5976005/spring-canola-nemesis-unmasked-in-southern-cropping-country/?cs=13999>



JOIN US FOR INNOVATION GENERATION 2019

Celebrating its 13th year, Innovation Generation has been hosted in six states and territories across Australia and attracted more than 1800 young agricultural enthusiasts.

If you are 18-40 and working in the agriculture industry, Innovation Generation is the one conference you can't afford to miss.

Bringing together award-winning speakers, innovators and industry professionals from across the sector, you will be inspired, challenged and will strengthen your network.

22 – 24 JULY 2019

MERCURE BALLARAT HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTRE

[Register Today](#)

Canola spray compliance

Growers are reminded to adhere to label application directions on herbicides containing haloxyfop.

National Working Party on Grain Protection chair Gerard McMullen has stressed that incorrect application could put export markets at risk.

The National Residue Survey detected residues above the maximum residue limit in canola traded domestically.

Haloxyfop herbicide products available in Australia include Verdict 520, Asset and Inquest herbicides.

For more information click [here](#)

Source: <https://grdc.com.au/news-and-media/news-and-media-releases/national/2019/5/canola-spray-compliance-an-industry-wide-effort>

Invest time and money to capture and keep the best farm workers

By Nicole Baxter

(Excerpt from Groundcover article: <https://groundcover.grdc.com.au/story/5878457/professional-steps-secure-quality-farm-staff/?cs=13981>)

When it comes to hiring new farm staff, human resource management specialists Clint Vawser and Tracey Ebert encourage growers to invest time in planning to determine how to capture the right person, engage them and keep them in the job. Mr Vawser, director of Oasis People and Culture, and Ms Ebert, from South Coast Facilitation, present two of the *'Being a Better Boss'* workshops for Partners in Grain (PinG) WA.

The workshops are a professional-development series examining human resources and industrial relations management in a broadacre context. GRDC investment has enabled PinG WA to deliver the third and newest instalment, which focuses on team productivity and time management. Ms Ebert says one of the first steps in hiring new farm staff is making time to think about the skills and attributes (values) of the person needed. "It's often a step that businesses owners generally miss because they might just grab the first person because the need is urgent, rather than having a think about who might be the right person for the business," she says. However, requirements can change over time, which is why Ms Ebert says it is so important to sit down with all the people involved in the business to work out the skills and attributes needed.



Human resource management specialists Tracey Ebert and Clint Vawser. PHOTO Hellene McTaggart

Clarify expectations

Mr Vawser says writing a job description will assist in clarifying the types of tasks that the new employee will be performing. "It also serves the purpose of communicating to a candidate what the role will entail and communicating expectations really clearly," he says. "In my experience, one of the problems growers face is articulating their expectations of others, so spending time getting clear on what is expected on the job is really important." Another suggestion, Mr Vawser says, is to develop an employee handbook to outline some of the behavioural expectations. For example: 'Is it appropriate for farm staff to wander inside the farmhouse at any time of the day?' or 'Is wearing uncovered shoes to work permitted?'

He says taking time to add some professionalism to the recruitment process is important because growers are competing to hire talented employees. "Growers are not necessarily geared to think of impressing others with what they're offering as an employer, and it's unfortunate because I think they have a lot to sell," Mr Vawser says. "If you think about recruitment as a sales exercise its important to be organised and offer value to the applicant. "If you have to clear dirty dishes off the kitchen table to make space for an interview, your starting point, professionally, is pretty low."

Past success a predictor

Mr Vawser says the best indicator of somebody's future performance is their past success. As a consequence, he encourages asking the applicant about their past on-the-job experiences, examples of problems solved and how things panned out. "That will ensure they're relating something that did actually happen in their previous job, rather than telling the interviewer what they think they want to hear," he says. "I would use 'what if' questions sparingly, if at all." Aside from the interview, Mr Vawser encourages the use of online assessment surveys and simple on the job tests. "An interview is really just one piece of the puzzle, so using a practical on-farm test, such as moving some hay bales if they've got a front-end loader ticket or completing an online assessment, can reveal a lot about a person's capability and their nature," he says. Through the interview process, Ms Ebert encourages the use of open-ended questions and making time to phone the applicant's past employers to check skills and attributes.

For the rest of this article head to:

<https://groundcover.grdc.com.au/story/5878457/professional-steps-secure-quality-farm-staff/?cs=13981>



PREDICTA B empowers industry against soil-borne diseases

By Rachael Oxborrow

(Excerpt from Groundcover article: <https://groundcover.grdc.com.au/story/5982523/test-empowers-industry/>)

PREDICTA B testing has empowered the grains industry to research, monitor and control how soil-borne diseases impact farming systems since its introduction in 1997.

This capability has armed farmers, advisers and researchers with the ability to access expertise outside of their field of knowledge to make timely and informed decisions.

South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI*) soil biology and diagnostics research leader and PREDICTA B test founder Dr Alan McKay says the testing service has progressed in line with industry need to address a wider range diseases and pathogens.

"Our recent lab upgrade has lifted our capacity to process around 60,000-70,000 soil samples a year and easily meet industry demand for the service," he says.

Dr McKay says as researchers have realised the potential of the science they have been using it to answer questions about the effects of soil-borne pathogens on crop quality and yield which were previously unanswerable without years of research.

Grain industry researchers and advisers have contributed to a qualitative research report reflecting on the past 20 years of PREDICTA B technology.

Report author Mike Krause of Applied Economic Solutions says the history of PREDICTA B has not only seen great uptake of the technology by the agronomy and grower sector, but has seen a real market demand from researchers, which has brought additional benefits to the wider grain growing industry.

He highlights that the research sector in particular has found the technology of great importance to inform trial and research site selection.

Mr Krause says the market need for PREDICTA B is clear, with soil-borne diseases estimated to cost grain growers in excess of \$370 million a year in lost production.

Dr McKay says the future for PREDICTA B testing expansion is now focused on assessing the impact of pathogens and their relationships.

"Up until now we have looked at pathogens on their own, for example how crown rot or Rhizoctonia impacts a crop individually," Dr McKay says.

"But our technology now allows us to assess the impact of two pathogens when they are present in the paddock together."

The PREDICTA B service is delivered through SARDI's Molecular Diagnostic Centre, a state-of-the-art facility capable of delivering high throughput diagnostic testing to industry.

Investment in the Molecular Diagnostic Centre and the continued development of PREDICTA B are components of the GRDC-SARDI strategic research partnership.



SARDI's Dr Alan McKay. PHOTO Alistair Lawson

Further information available: https://pir.sa.gov.au/research/services/molecular_diagnostics



"Soil borne disease is a significant issue in the Upper North and is having yield limiting impacts in many paddocks across the region. Make sure you know what is holding your crops back, talk to your advisor about implementing Predicta B testing at your farm."



PURE NEW WOOL

Woolgrowers Tiverton, Vic

Source: Woolmark article: <https://www.woolmark.com/about-wool/woolgrowers/vic-tiverton/>

In his seminal book, *The Biggest Estate on Earth*, historian Bill Gammage explodes the long-held assumption that pre-settlement Australia was an untamed wilderness. By contrast, Gammage presents written and visual records of the extraordinarily complex, country-wide land management systems developed and managed by Australia's Aboriginal people, with the first European settlers continually commenting that the land look like a country English estate, with its grassy patches, pathways, open woodlands and wildlife.

Maintenance of the land through fire and the natural lifecycles of native plants ensured the Indigenous population an abundance of natural food and shelter year-round. It wasn't until European settlers began to claim the land that it became overgrown and prone to the damaging and widespread bush fires that Australia has experienced in its modern history.

"It's extraordinary that for so many years and decades we have been misguided on what the land once looked like, so it has been challenging to get back to that point, or near to it, in any way," says Tim Hill, the live-in manager of Tiverton, an 800-hectare [Merino sheep farm](#) in the Western District of Victoria. Co-owned by Harry Youngman, whose company Tiverton Ag manages close to 13,000 hectares of arable land in the state, and Nigel Sharp, who also runs the Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre, the team behind Tiverton measure their economic goals against environmental ones with the intention of not only minimising environmental impact, but improving the land quality for the future, inspired by some of the learnings in Gammage's research.



Well known and managed for its grassland values, Tiverton sits atop a largely flat, volcanic plain which makes it ideal for grazing land and the production of vegetable crops. Home to several thousand Merino sheep, producing an average fleece of around 15.5-micron, it certainly stands to reason that Hill, Sharp and Youngman are intent on protecting their property and finding more sustainable farming practices. After all, a better natural environment – such as the quality and abundance of grass and reversing the impacts of drought – make for [better, stronger, finer wool](#), and thus a return on investment for growers, but beyond this, it plays into a broader and more deeply ingrained love of the land, where our proximity to a versatile and rich environment has long been a source of pride for Australians. A commitment to preserving natural biodiversity and finding more sustainable farming practices is evidence of Australian woolgrowers' desire to make the fibre the number one choice for fashion designers and consumers alike when it comes to a more responsible industry.

When Youngman and Sharp bought Tiverton, they effectively brought together Youngman's farming knowledge and Sharp's conservation experience, and together set out to grow superior fine wool and to perpetuate the native grasses by better understanding what regenerative farming is all about. "We had a thesis that the microbiology would be really strong here and that there would be lessons that we can learn from the soil here that could be extrapolated across other properties," he explains. "The lesson has been that you don't need to destroy everything [for your farming business], but even more, it points to what we don't know. An investment like this is a small price to pay in the interest of progressive farming."

Read more..... <https://www.woolmark.com/about-wool/woolgrowers/vic-tiverton/>

Regenerative Agriculture and Wool Production:



PURE NEW WOOL

Growing wool in Australia using regenerative agriculture works to foster diversity and resilience in ecology, people and economy.

Source: Woolmark article: <https://www.woolmark.com/about-wool/woolgrowers/regenerative-agriculture-wool-production/>

Working to support the environment rather than degrade it, regenerative agriculture is a holistic farming approach that focuses on developing the biology and fertility of soils as the basis of the entire farm ecosystem. As passionate stewards of almost 50% of Australia's landmass, Australian farmers work hard to leave the land, waterways, vegetation and soils in better condition for future generations.

Pioneering [Australian woolgrowers](#) are leading the way by using age-old farming techniques with cutting-edge science to practise farming in a way that reverses the degrading impacts of conventional agriculture.

Regenerative agriculture works to:

Support soil systems - Return nutrients to the soil to increase microbial health and diversity.

Increase biodiversity - Encourage and support flora and fauna species co-habitation.

Improve water cycles - Repair erosion and reduce and remove water pollution.

Support bio-sequestration - Increase dry matter compost and soil structure to lock carbon back into soil.

Increase resilience to climate fluctuation - Build resilience through ground cover and water storage.

Strengthen soil health and vitality - Improve water retention, compost and pastures and tree root systems.

By planting trees, rotational grazing, sequestering carbon in dry matter compost, nurturing diversity through pasture cropping, improving water retention in farm soil through 'leaky weir' techniques, repairing erosion and using revegetation to remove pollutants from waterways, Australian woolgrowers are innovating to improve the health of the environment of which they are custodians.

Through our dedicated research and development department, woolgrowers are investing in research and development initiatives that will support regenerative agriculture.

Studies are currently under way to investigate perennial pasture species that sequester atmospheric nitrogen and imbibe these nutrients into the soil to support soil structure and increase ground cover.

Another study is looking into the benefits of controlled grazing pressure on the overall farm biodiversity including native flora and fauna and the environmental benefits of rotational grazing. Along with research, Australian woolgrowers partner with community initiatives such as [Greening Australia](#) and [Landcare Australia](#) to further their positive impact on the environment.

Moving toward a regenerative agricultural business model is by no means an easy feat, but increasingly, Australian woolgrowers are seeing the diverse benefits of working in sync with nature.

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MEDIA RELEASE



At your fingertips: expert pulse crop advice

Pulse growers have been provided with a valuable resource for the 2019 cropping season thanks to a recent online webinar series, held as part of the Grains Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC) Southern Region Pulse Extension Project.

The five webinars, each covering a different pulse crop type, featured a line-up of industry experts who provided an overview of relevant agronomic information, pulse research findings and current market information.

The 'Growing Pulses' webinar recordings – for beans, vetch, field peas, lentils and chickpeas – are now available for viewing via the GRDC YouTube Channel at <http://bit.ly/2KiesUs>.

Southern Region Pulse Extension Project manager, Pru Cook, says the webinars were well received by participants and recording requests were in high demand post-event.

"Each of these webinars allowed growers and other industry personnel to interact with industry experts without the burden and expense of travel and time away from their businesses, cost effectively building their skills and better preparing for the upcoming growing season," Ms Cook said.

"More than 70 people tuned in to the live webinars and the positive feedback from those who participated proves there is great support for this type of forum.

"Comments resoundingly stated that the content was very helpful, and that the technology had additional benefits. For example, a participant noted that the images of diseases came through so clearly, much better than in a printed resource.

"There were also requests for more webinars on other pulse-related topics throughout the growing season and an indication that such forums would grow in effectiveness and reach as people became more familiar with the format."

The GRDC Southern Region Pulse Extension Project, titled 'Building capacity, skills and knowledge for the pulse industry in the southern region: supporting expansion of high value pulses into new areas and ensuring sustained profitability of all key pulse crops', began in 2017.

Delivered by a consortium of organisations involved in the pulse industry across the GRDC's southern region, the initiative aims to increase the knowledge of growers and advisers on sustainable pulse production, leading to improved farming systems and grower profitability.

Meanwhile, pulse industry stakeholders are encouraged to contact Ms Cook regarding suggested topics for future webinars.

Enquiries and feedback can be directed to Southern Region Pulse Extension Project manager, Pru Cook, at pru.cook@bcg.org.au or on 0438 923 258.

MANAGING TAX STRATEGIES OVER MULTIPLE YEARS IN A FARMING BUSINESS AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF DECISIONS YOU MAY MAKE TODAY ON YOUR INCOME IN FUTURE YEARS

Author: Jo Gilbert (RSM Australia Pty Ltd) | **Date:** 12/2/19

Source: GRDC Farm Business Updates

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- Know your current strategies.
- Be long term focussed, not short term.
- Work out what is your tax comfort level and be prepared to adjust these as your business grows

INTRODUCTION

The rapid pace of change in the Income Tax Legislation has an impact on all small businesses and their long-term strategies for management of tax liabilities.

Primary producers are often faced with the challenges of variability of income from year to year. This may be as a result of the weather, commodity prices, or simply the management challenges that any business faces.

In recent years, the way farmers market their products has seen wins and losses in how farmers trade year in year out, and with this comes the need to manage tax strategies from year to year to ensure the greatest reward for effort possible and the best after-tax profits.

What happens though when that one, out of the blue 'good year' is followed by another good year, then another and before long it starts to look like this may be the new norm? Or even worse, even in average years some farmers insist on driving down tax rates with a variety of strategies through an illogical belief that the government must be denied what is rightly their hard-earned cash!

The cumulative effect of multiple years of tax and income deferral strategies for some may start to feel like a 'loaded gun'. Is there a silver bullet? Or is it just time to unload the gun?

CASH VERSUS ACCRUAL BASIS FOR TAX ACCOUNTING

Critical to consideration of any tax planning strategy is an understanding of the timing of derivation of income. Legislation requires that a taxpayer accounts for income on either an accruals basis or a cash basis.

Under the accruals method, income is derived when it is earned or when a recoverable debt is created. Under the cash method, income is derived when it is received.

The Commissioner has some general views around the appropriate method to be adopted, as outlined in **Taxation Ruling TR98/1 Income tax: determination of income; receipts versus earnings**.

Read more.....<https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/grdc-update-papers/tab-content/grdc-update-papers/2019/02/managing-tax-strategies-over-multiple-years-in-a-farming-business-and-the-implications-of-decisions-you-may-make-today-on-your-income-in-future-years>





“Something to listen to”



GRDC PODCAST: [EMERGING MANAGEMENT TIPS FOR EARLY SOWN WINTER WHEATS](https://grdc.com.au/news-and-media/audio/podcast/emerging-management-tips-for-early-sown-winter-wheats)

Winter wheat varieties allow wheat growers in the Southern Region to sow much earlier than currently practised, meaning a greater proportion of the farm can be sown on time.

The GRDC's Management of Early Sown Wheat project focuses on which varieties have the best yield, adaptation in different environments and their optimal sowing window.

In this podcast Associate Professor at La Trobe University, James Hunt, is involved in the project and talks us through the results of an experiment and their significance for growers.

<https://grdc.com.au/news-and-media/audio/podcast/emerging-management-tips-for-early-sown-winter-wheats>

GRDC PODCAST: [ADOPTING PRACTICE CHANGE](https://grdc.com.au/news-and-media/audio/podcast/adopting-practice-change)

Agronomist Cam Nicholson is passionate about providing advice to boost farmers' profitability and productivity, and one of the keys he uses is to work out the personality types of his clients.

<https://grdc.com.au/news-and-media/audio/podcast/adopting-practice-change>

“Websites to explore”

Upper North Farming Systems

www.unfs.com.au

Check out our website for up to date trial sites and project details for 2019.

All coming events will be on the calendar and there are some great resources up there for you to explore too!

2019 Farm Gross Margin and Enterprise Planning Guide

The South Australian Grains Industry Trust, in association with Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) and the South Australian Sheep Industry Fund (SIF) are pleased to produce this annual publication on expected Gross Margins for broadacre cropping and livestock enterprises in South Australia. It incorporates latest information on input and output pricing to give estimates of the relative profitability of different farm enterprises, as an aid to decision making in enterprise selection. With funding from SASIF, the livestock and pasture gross margins have been reviewed with three additional livestock and two pasture gross margins added.

There is an Excel-based version available on the website which allows for easy modification of the standard Gross Margin to fit your particular circumstances. A great tool for enterprise planning, so check these out !!

<https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/all-publications/publications/2019/farm-gross-margin-and-enterprise-planning-guide>

Upcoming Events Calendar

June 2019

12	Strategic Board & Operations Committee Meetings, Booleroo Centre	Kristina Mudge 0438 840 369
13	GRDC Local Forum, Wandearah, 9am - 12.30pm	Jen Lillecrapp 0427 647 461
19	Ladies on the Land—Weathering the Dry workshop, Morchard, 9am - 2.30pm	Jess Koch 0407 986 557
27	Winning with Weaners workshop, Melrose Showground, 9am - 3pm	Deb Scammell 0407 790 622

July 2019

16	Hart Winter Walk, Hart	Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154
17	Crop Science Soc of SA (UNFS & Ag Bureau SA) regional mtg, Spalding, 7.30pm	0447 541 654
22 - 24	Innovation Generation Conference (Grain Growers Ltd), Ballarat	David Evans 0437 176 280
24	Ladies on the Land—Business Planning (venue TBA)	Jess Koch 0407 986 557
27	GRDC Farm Business update, Loxton 9am - 1pm.	
31	Building Future Extension Leaders Workshop, Waite	Danielle England 0429 676 077

August 2019

1	UNFS Members Expo, Booleroo Centre, 9am - 5pm	Kristina Mudge 0438 840 369
15	SA Livestock Consultants' Livestock Advisor Update, Glenelg, 8.30am - 5pm	
20 - 22	AgQuip Field Days, Gunnedah NSW	Melanie Ison 02 6768 5800
22	Jamestown Livestock Market	Pt Augusta 08 8642 4344
28	Ladies on the Land—Business Planning (venue TBA)	Jess Koch 0407 986 557
25 - 29	19th Australian Agronomy Conference, Wagga Wagga	Linda Bennison 0428 900 622

September 2019

17	Hart Field Day, Hart	Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154
19	Jamestown Livestock Market	Pt Augusta 08 8642 4344
24 - 26	Yorke Peninsula Field Days, Paskeville	Elaine Bussenschutt 08 8827 2040

October 2019

3	Jamestown Livestock Market	Pt Augusta 08 8642 4344
15	Spring Twilight Walk Hart	Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154
17	Jamestown Livestock Market	Pt Augusta 08 8642 4344
27 - 30	SA Landcare Conference, Bordertown.	Janet Kuys 0477 017 325
31	Jamestown Livestock Market	Pt Augusta 08 8642 4344

November 2019

14	Jamestown Livestock Market	Pt Augusta 08 8642 4344
28	Jamestown Livestock Market	Pt Augusta 08 8642 4344

December 2019

12	Jamestown Livestock Market	Pt Augusta 08 8642 4344
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2019
Time of Sowing
photos



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