

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

July 2020

Interesting Times, Silver Linings, Excitement Ahead...

Ruth Sommerville, Executive Officer

The past few months have been interesting to say the least. Things ran their course during seeding for many, once the shortages caused by panic buying of chem and fert were sorted out. If farmers aren't the masters of self isolation, I don't know who is. Those with full shearing sheds have had to make a few adjustments to make them work within the restrictions and the hard borders now implemented may effect shearing teams into the future. The selling and buying of livestock may also look rather different this spring too. We hope that you are taking time to spend with family, virtually or face to face, to get some physical activity and look out for each other. A sense of comfort, yet alertness for what may still come has settled in our valley and the crystal balls are all a little blurry at the moment...but being farmers we should all be pretty used to that!

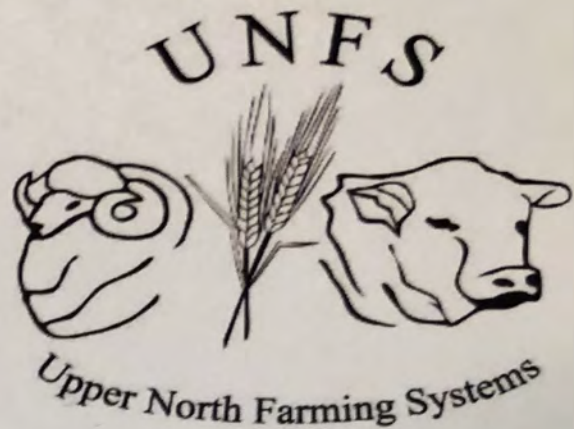
As we go into the next quarter of the year it is time for UNFS to start its extension events for the trial season...we do so however with some trepidation. We are working to be a COVID safe workplace and provider to our members, to do so though, we need your assistance. Please, before you attend an event...load the COVIDSAFE app on your phone and please do a self health check...if you have any signs of illness, then please let us know you wont be coming. We can arrange info to be sent out after the event. While you are at the event, please follow the requests of the UNFS team, respect the 1.5m rule and give each other some space, wash your hands well and frequently and make use of hand sanitiser where supplied. Most of our events aren't curtailed by available space and we will make the most of the amazing trial and demonstration sites we have available this year by having most of our events outdoors, so our events should be low risk if we all follow the rules.

Trial sites are once again open. We are in the process of loading the trial site locations on to our new website. While we were all bunkered down we had the website re-built to enable better functionality. Looks similar but it works much better and is easier to manage from our end. We ask that you please contact the trial contact point prior to entering the site. We will manage numbers on site at any one time and all trial plans will be a fixed sign or available on the website to limit risk of cross contamination between site visitors. There are a great suite of trial sites spread across the region and we look forward to showcasing them at events over the coming weeks and months, but they are available to sticky beak at outside of events if you have a nice afternoon and a few mates that want to meet for a trial inspection.

We have three great reasons to be excited for the upcoming, we have new staff! We have been undertaking an 18 month trial period utilising contractors for our on-ground project work and the past 12 months with Jamie overseeing that contract management. The Strategic Board decided recently that the model works, providing an effective and adaptable trial, demo and extension service to the farmers of the Upper North, and that it was time to recruit staff into the management role. Quickly one turned into two, with Jade Rose taking on the Research Coordinator Role and Denni Russell taking the Engagement Coordinator Role. We are excited by the skills that these two passionate professionals bring to the organisation in their areas of expertise. We thank Jamie Wilson for his help over the past 12 months as a contractor while we got the new model settled. In addition we have had Bethany Sleep join us as a casual Project Officer to deliver on ground project work! Exciting times ahead for UNFS and what we can achieve!

Also in this issue:

- Trial Reports
- New Staff Members
- GRDC articles
- GM Crop Bill Passes Parliament
- ActforAg - Stephanie Schmidt
- Innovation Generation Masterclass
- Lifetime Ewe Management Course
- Drought Communities - Grants
- Interest Free help available
- Keeping your business safe from cyberfraud
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- Sponsor's Corner
- Diary Dates



**UNFS Member's Expo
24th September 2020
Booleroo Centre S.A.**

Save the Date

***Trial Super Site**

***Research & Practical
Presentations**

***Trade & Tech Displays**

***Annual General Meeting**

Event confirmation - early September
www.unfs.com.au

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperNorthFarmingSystems>



TRIAL REPORT

Barley Grass Management Options

By Beth Sleep, UNFS Project Officer



This year the Barley Grass Management trial is in a pasture phase, set to be spray topped later in the season, currently with a low stocking rate within the paddock. Plant counts were completed on the 29th of May, after opening rains. Very little differences were observed between the high/low barley grass treatments. This was particularly evident in rep two – seemingly a favoured area of the trial for barley grass establishment, possibly attributed to a lower lying area resulting in increased soil moisture. The buffer strips showed a much higher population relative to the harvested and hay cut areas, with limited differences between the grain and hay treatments (Fig. 1). This likely was due to the inability to cut for hay in the 2019 growing season, with crops producing minimal and short biomass.

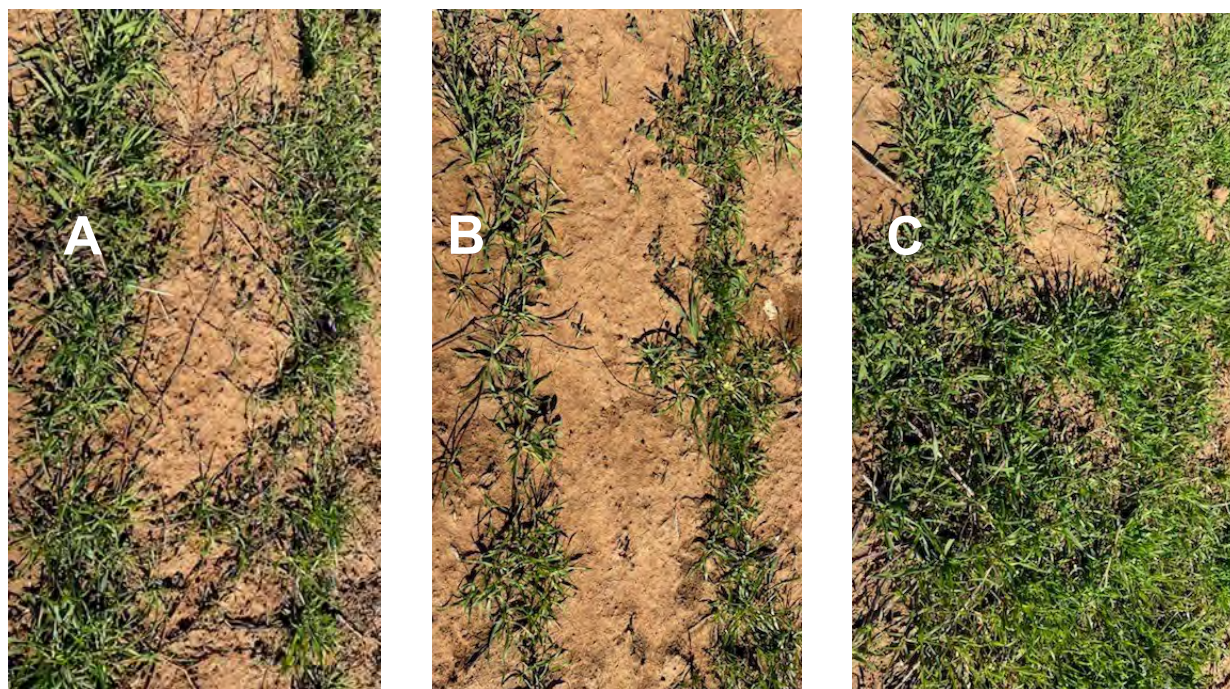


Figure 1. Photos taken when completing barley grass counts on the 29th May, considering the low barley grass population, dry sown treatment of rep 3. Photo A looking at hay cut, photo B grain harvested plot and photo C buffer.

Do you have any budding soil scientists in your household??

Natural Resources South East have developed this Soil activity pack for childrentake a look!!!

Learn more about soil basics with our Soil Activity Pack for kids and adults who want to learn the basics.

The [Activity Pack](#) contains some great information on why soil is important, what it is, and soil types to help you out with the first three activities:

[Activity 1 – Comparing apples and earth](#)

[Activity 2 – Soil Texture – The Manipulative Test](#)

[Activity 3 – Dirt Shake – Determining Soil Types](#)





TRIAL REPORT

Dryland Legume Pasture Systems

By Beth Sleep, UNFS Project Officer

Boosting profit and reducing risk on mixed farms in low and medium rainfall areas with newly discovered legume pastures enabled by innovative management methods – Southern Region.

The trial was sown on the 8th of May proceeding 59 mm rainfall in the month of April and 41 mm to date this month (May + June). The trial is located in the Canowie Belt region, a marginal cropping area between Jamestown and Yongala.

Species sown in the trial include a mix of medic, clover, vetch, biserrula, serradella and teder varieties. The trial will run over a three-year period, assessing suitability of the above species in terms of plant biomass quantity and quality in addition to ability of each species to self-regenerate from the seed bank created in year 1.

Soft seeded species germinated soon after sowing, with some hard-seeded species still germinating now. Growths has slowed significantly with colder conditions.

A BIG thank you to the SARDI Clare team for sowing this trial.



Mallee Sustainable Farming



TRIAL REPORT

SARDI Research Mega Site – Fullerville

This year SARDI have a major trial in the region at Fullerville on Todd and Brooke Orrock's place co-located with the UNFS Barley Time of Sowing Trial and the Fodder Trial.

Under the supervision of Penny Roberts and her team you can see in the below table the extensive trial program that they have at the site. This will offer a variety of trials in the local area to look at a variety of different agronomy treatments and varieties. As part of SARDI's program there is also a significant trial similar to the below at Warnertown.

As restrictions ease there will be field days announced however in the meantime it is requested that the site isn't visited **without prior approval from SARDI due to COVID19** management plans.



<i>Southern Pulse Agronomy</i>	Location	Date
Pulse end-use trial (lentil and vetch)	Booleroo	12-May
Low rainfall Chickpea AB	Booleroo	11-May
Low rainfall Lentil AB	Booleroo	11-May
Low rainfall Field pea AB	Booleroo	11-May
Low rainfall Vetch AB	Booleroo	11-May
Vetch GA trial (GA timings, densities, varieties)	Booleroo	12-May
Soil disease trials (lentil, faba bean)	Booleroo	12-May
Low rainfall intercropping	Booleroo	11-May
Lentil herbicide management (B&C)	Booleroo	12-May
Termination of pulses	Booleroo	12-May
Faba bean canopy management + nutrition	Booleroo	11-May
Row spacing in LRZ intercropping	Booleroo	11-May

TRIAL REPORT

Barley Time of Sowing and Fodder Crop Trials

By Steph Lunn, Research Officer, AgXtra

With thanks to SAGIT for funding the Barley Time of Sowing trial, Balco for funding the fodder trial and Todd and Brook Orrock for hosting the trials.

With a cracker start to season the Barley Time of Sowing and Fodder Crop Variety Trial have bounced out of the ground with even germination across all varieties in the first two times of sowing. TOS3 isn't quite out the ground yet.

Sowing dates are as follows:

TOS1	14 th April
TOS2 and Fodder	9 th May
TOS3	27 th May

A huge thank you again to Todd and Brook Orrock for not only having the trials on their property for another year, but for also sowing and maintaining the trials within their own program. Hopefully with a better year we can see these varieties grow to their full potential and be able to set them apart in their tolerance to frost and heat events.

A couple of changes to the varieties this year, all sown at 70kg/ha;

Barley Time of Sowing	
V1	Planet
V2	Leabrook
V3	Maximus
V4	WI4592
V5	Spartacus

Fodder Crop Trial	
V1	Bennett Wheat
V2	AGT Wheat - SUN9440
V3	AGT Wheat - SUN945A
V4	Kingbale
V5	Brusher Oats
V6	Dictator 2 Awnless Barley



Photo of the Barley TOS Trial 5/6/20 showing the early sown TOS1 (left) and TOS3 (right).

Welcome Denni Russell

UNFS Engagement Coordinator

Denni is an experienced engagement professional with a demonstrated history of working with regional communities in the agricultural, natural resource management and government sectors. She is skilled in workshop facilitation, strategic planning, community and stakeholder engagement, grant writing and project management. Denni also brings experience in environmental education, social media management, development of communication plans and report writing. She has a Bachelor's degree focused in Environmental Science (Honours) & Graduate Diploma in Urban and Regional Planning from University of South Australia. Denni's main aim through working with UNFS is to help land managers and communities in the region understand data and best practice to make informed decisions. When she's not working on projects for UNFS, Denni is an Elected Member with Wakefield Regional Council, works part time at UniSA and enjoys spending time in her veggie garden at home in Blyth.



Welcome Jade Rose

UNFS Research Coordinator



I am incredibly passionate about grains research and development in South Australia. I have a Bachelor of Environmental Management and Policy, a Bachelor of Science double majoring in soil science and ecology and completed my honours in plant pathology (Ascochyta blight in lentils). I worked at SARDI for 2+ years in the pulse and oilseed pathology laboratory, then at Hart Field Site-Group as the intern and research scientist in 2019. I am a committee member of Crop Science Society SA and am currently undertaking my PhD at Adelaide University investigating nutrient release and nitrogen benefit of above and belowground residues of pulse species in

southern Australia. I love learning from growers and agronomists in the field (figuratively and literally) and delivering sound and applicable science-based research to improve productivity and sustainability of agriculture. I'm really looking forward to learning more about the Upper North region and lower rainfall areas and getting to know the growers and communities in this region. I hope to contribute positively to the ongoing journey and evolution of Upper North Farming Systems

Welcome Beth Sleep—UNFS Project Officer

Beth joined UNFS as a Casual Project Officer in early May 2020, here's a short bio for you:

I grew up in the area on a mixed sheep and cropping farm, being the fourth generation to live and work on the family farm located in the Sunny Brea and Canowie Belt districts.

I completed my bachelor of agricultural sciences with the University of Adelaide in 2018, moving onto the completion of my honours degree in the area of Advanced Soil Science throughout 2019 and 2020. I am nearing the completion of this, looking into visible near infrared spectroscopy, a potential advancement in the quantification of numerous soil parameters simultaneously in field. My project considered the suitability of this technology used as a field based technology to ultimately create prescription maps for lime application rapidly, inexpensively and robustly. A large part of my project considered the trade off between laboratory level precision, which is not achieved using this technology as yet and reduced economic costs associated with field based measurements.

I'm strongly passionate about the management of soils, having travelled across Australia and world wide to compete in Soil Science Australia and New Zealand's soil classification competition in 2017, 2018 and 2019. This experience has given me a strong appreciation for our agricultural soils and the ability they hold to help buffer environmental stresses.

I look forward to meeting more of the Upper North Farming System's members moving forward and would like to wish everyone the best for the growing season ahead.



2019 Annual Research and Extension Compendium is Complete!

Watch out for the Compendium in your letter box! It is nearly 200 pages of research and extension material from the 2019 trial season. It has something for every farmer and hopefully will provide you with information to help you shape the seasons ahead.

It is also that time of year for your membership renewals. Make sure you renew to keep in the loop for all the great trials and extension events that are planned over the coming weeks. Get in touch with Kristina if your membership renewal or compendium haven't arrived by the end of July.

With the new financial year comes the renewal of most of our Sponsorship Agreements. Without sponsors and partners UNFS would not be able to achieve anywhere near what we do for the Upper North Farming Community. If you think there is a business that may be interested in partnering with UNFS into the future please let Joe Koch or one of the Operations Committee know and they will follow it up. Remember to check out the list of sponsors at the end of the newsletter and show your appreciation to them for supporting the group next time you are chatting with them!



June 18, 2020

Delay the spray if frost is forecast – clethodim advice to growers

Grain growers in the southern cropping region should avoid spraying annual ryegrass with clethodim herbicide when frost is forecast.

Weed control experts are advising growers not to spray clethodim two to three days before or after a frost event due to the impact on efficacy.

The reminder has been issued following a recent spate of frost events across South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania.

The poor performance of clethodim on annual ryegrass – a weed becoming increasingly resistant to clethodim – can be associated with cold and frosty conditions.

Research by the University of Adelaide through a Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) investment has shown that frost, particularly before clethodim application, reduces the herbicide's activity in susceptible annual ryegrass populations.

The studies demonstrated that clethodim efficacy was further reduced in resistant annual ryegrass populations regardless of whether the frost event was prior to or post clethodim application.

However, the impact was much greater when frost occurred before application of clethodim, which is a Group A herbicide.

University of Adelaide Associate Professor in weed and crop ecology, Gurjeet Gill, says frosty conditions make it even harder to control annual ryegrass when clethodim resistance is present in the population.

“Growers are advised to carefully review weather forecasts for their district and spray clethodim when cloud cover is present and the risk of frost occurrence is low,” Dr Gill says.

“Ideally, spray small ryegrass plants under warmer and frost-free periods for the best results with clethodim.

[Read more:](#)



May 5, 2020 SOUTHERN

Early-sown canola may escape blackleg clutches

Canola crops sown early in warm conditions over recent weeks may escape potentially severe blackleg disease during the growing season.

Many crops are being sown earlier than usual this year following decent summer and early autumn rains.

Marcroft Grains Pathology principal Steve Marcroft, who is co-ordinator of the Grains Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC) National Canola Pathology Program investment, says crops sown before April 30 into warm conditions that allowed them to quickly progress through the seedling growth stage are at the lowest risk of developing blackleg.

"Crops sown from May onwards are likely to face more disease pressure from blackleg, with crops sown from June onwards at the highest risk."

This advice is contained in the GRDC Blackleg Management Guide autumn 2020 edition which also features the latest blackleg ratings for canola cultivars.

Dr Marcroft says results from the latest blackleg screenings of canola cultivars have been factored into the updated ratings for 2020. Blackleg ratings can change from year-to-year if the fungus overcomes cultivar resistance.

Leptosphaeria maculans, the causal agent of blackleg disease, is a sexually reproducing pathogen that may overcome cultivar resistance genes. Fungal spores are released from canola stubble and spread extensively via wind and rain splash. The impact is more severe in areas of intensive canola production.

"Blackleg can cause severe yield loss, but can be successfully managed," Dr Marcroft says. "Growers are advised to closely follow the recommended strategies for reducing the risk of disease which are contained in the GRDC Blackleg Management Guide."

The guide, available at <https://grdc.com.au/GRDC-FS-BlacklegManagementGuide>, can be used by growers to determine whether they are in a high-risk situation and the best management practices to reduce or prevent yield loss from blackleg.

The guide also emphasises that fungicides will only provide an economic return if a crop is at high risk of yield loss.

"Fungicides complement other management practices," Dr Marcroft advises. "Growers should never rely solely on fungicides to control disease as this poses a high risk for development of resistance."

The BlacklegCM blackleg management app has also been updated with the latest disease ratings. The app, a GRDC investment, provides growers with a tool that can forecast the likelihood and severity of the disease, associated yield loss and economic returns on a paddock-by-paddock basis.

Dr Marcroft says the tool provides growers and advisers with "an interactive interface" to explore and compare the economic outcomes of different management strategies for blackleg, which can cause up to 90 percent yield loss where a cultivar's blackleg resistance has been overcome.

The app, available for use on iPads and tablets via the App Store and Google Play, is an extension of the Blackleg Management Guide which is updated twice a year to reflect any changes in the resistance status of individual cultivars.

"BlacklegCM assists growers to manage blackleg by integrating the information provided in the Blackleg Management Guide and producing a predicted economic outcome," Dr Marcroft says.

Continued from Page 9

“It can be modified to account for some of the major factors that relate to risk of yield loss due to blackleg in a particular paddock. It allows the user to compare the likely relative profitability of different disease management strategies, including paddock selection, cultivar choice, seed dressing, banded fungicide and sprayed fungicide.”

BlacklegCM factors in costs, yield benefits and grain prices to give the best case, worst case and most likely estimates of economic return. It also accounts for the major factors that influence blackleg severity and can be used during the growing season to assist with foliar fungicide application decisions.

Dr Marcroft says the severity of blackleg disease in 2020 will be dependent on seasonal conditions.

To further assist growers in determining the level of risk in their area, the GRDC-supported National Variety Trials (NVT) Online website, www.nvtonline.com.au, provides the latest information from blackleg monitoring sites across Australia.

Representative cultivars from all blackleg resistance groups are sown in trial sites in every canola-producing region and monitored for blackleg severity. This data provides regional information on the effectiveness of each blackleg resistance group.

Comprehensive information on management of canola diseases can be found in the GRDC's *Diseases of Canola and Their Management: The Back Pocket Guide*, available <https://grdc.com.au/GRDC-BPG-CanolaDiseases>.

Videos featuring Dr Marcroft diagnosing and explaining how to control blackleg upper canopy infection can be found at <https://bit.ly/2VHwBNZ> and <https://bit.ly/2Kk3xqs> respectively, while a podcast on upper canopy infection can be downloaded via <https://bit.ly/2KikMsb>.

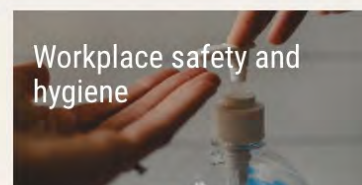
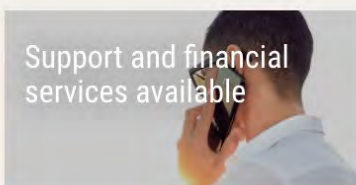
Disclaimer: “GRDC is a sponsor of the UNFS. This article is supplied and not endorsed by the UNFS”

COVID-19 AND PRIMARY INDUSTRIES



PIRSA is providing information about how COVID-19 affects primary industry related businesses, such as agriculture, food and wine. Follow these links:

SA COVID-19 hotline 1800 253 787



Support for growers eager to capture crop yield potential

With favourable seasonal conditions in the southern cropping region elevating the yield potential of this year's winter crops, grain growers are eager to meet the nutrient demands of their crops to capture the potential on offer.

To support growers and advisers in understanding the in-season nitrogen (N) requirements of crops, the Grains Research and Development Corporation has published [A Nitrogen Reference Manual For The Southern Cropping Region](#).

The manual, available for viewing and downloading, is a comprehensive guide to understanding, managing and estimating N requirements from paddock to paddock and season to season.

The manual was collated by a team from the University of Adelaide, University of New England, the University of Melbourne and advisers as part of a GRDC-invested project. It outlines key N fertiliser decision points for cereal crops, including:

- Tillering – re-assess soil moisture and yield potential, check tiller number in relation to current estimate of yield potential, and apply N to increase tiller number if required;
- Stem elongation – re-assess soil moisture, tiller number and yield potential based on seasonal rainfall and outlook, apply fertiliser N if required to match potential yield and grain protein target;
- Booting – if yield potential has increased significantly, additional N may be needed to maintain desirable protein levels.

Project leader Associate Professor Matthew Denton, from the University of Adelaide, says it is important for growers to make proactive assessments in-season and add N if it is needed, especially in good seasons.

“Adjusting in-season inputs to the estimated yield potential helps minimise seasonal and economic risks,” Assoc Prof Denton says.

“However, waiting for visual signs of nitrogen deficiency, such as pale leaves and low tiller numbers, will mean yield potential will have already been compromised.

“While there are some useful rules of thumb that can help growers with their nitrogen decisions, nitrogen budgeting approaches that are timely and take into account nitrogen supply from fertiliser, soil mineral nitrogen and the likely mineralisation of organic matter are needed for more accurate nitrogen management,” Assoc Prof Denton says.

“Monitoring soil moisture and nitrogen and careful management of nitrogen inputs is vital to ongoing productivity.”

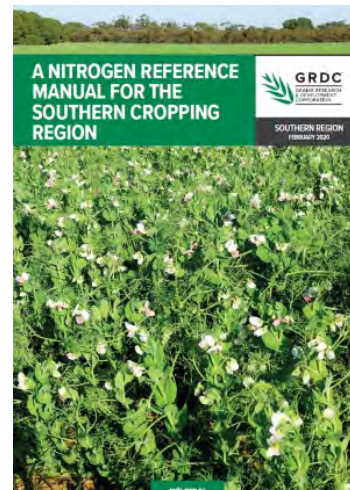
The manual includes information about the various N decision support tools available to growers and advisers. The GRDC has invested in a preliminary assessment of tools for estimating N mineralisation during crop growth in the southern cropping region.

GRDC Manager Soils and Nutrition – South, Stephen Loss, says insufficient supplies of N from the soil and fertiliser inputs are important factors in the difference between yield achieved by growers and their crop's water-limited yield potential.

“Over recent decades, cropping rotations have intensified, pasture production has declined, and crop yield potential and nitrogen requirements have increased,” Dr Loss says.

“Data indicates soil organic matter contents are declining in most cases and the nitrogen being removed from the system is not being adequately replaced by fertiliser applications or fixed by legumes in rotation.”

Dr Loss says a separate GRDC investment had recently monitored some 200 paddocks across Australia for three seasons and while most crops did not have a major yield gap, many in high rainfall conditions were not achieving yield potential largely because N supplies were insufficient for their demands.



Grains Research and Development Corporation



Regional Snapshot

By Tom Blake, GRDC Grower Relations Manager – South

Although hopefully a distant memory following the recent rainfall received over the past month, it's important to acknowledge the success of the GRDC-UNFS Dealing with the Dry farm business regional forum at Booleroo Centre earlier in the year. We had a strong attendance at this and other similar events across the southern region, with positive feedback from growers on the information that was delivered. Further resources, including videos, can be found on the GRDC's Dealing with the Dry resource hub at <https://bit.ly/3g9oa7r>.

The GRDC Southern Pulse Agronomy and Pulse Extension projects have a good footprint in the Upper North and I extend thanks to the team at the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) for their work on the agronomy project and Rachel Trengove for her efforts facilitating the UNFS Pulse Check group. Unfortunately, the boosting nitrogen fixation in pulses workshop at Clare had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but we hope growers were able to access the podcasts and webinar via <https://bit.ly/2TnZSwT>. The Pulse Extension webinars, Growing Pulses in 2020, are also available on the GRDC YouTube channel, <https://bit.ly/2JsEqS4>.



GRDC has some valuable investments in the soils space, with Sam Trengove running trials for the Sandy Soils – Impact program near Warnertown. Brian Hughes and his team at Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA) are into their second year of the 'New knowledge and practices to address topsoil and subsurface acidity under minimum tillage cropping systems of South Australia' investment. This project will investigate spatial variability in acidification and management practices to combat this emerging constraint.

In the weeds portfolio, and hot off the press, is the new *Common Weeds of Grain Cropping: The Ute Guide*. Replacing the former regional and seasonal weed ute guides, this national version is a larger format and includes descriptions and images of more than 120 common weed species through a range of growth stages. It can be downloaded via <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/all-publications/common-weeds-of-grain-cropping-the-ute-guide>. To order copies, free-call 1800 11 00

44 or email: ground-cover-direct@canprint.com.au and quote GRDC Order Code GRDC1331. Also on weeds, you may be interested to know that Gurjeet Gill and his team at the University of Adelaide are into their second year investigating integrated weed management (IWM) strategies to control barley grass in low rainfall farming systems.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the GRDC, to again acknowledge the contribution of the late Matt McCallum to advancing farming systems in the Upper North. We know Matt will be greatly missed by all.

I wish UNFS members and the region's farming community all the best for the remainder of season 2020.

In the meantime, I encourage you to make contact with me, or your local Regional Cropping Solutions Networks members, if you wish to bring an idea or issue to GRDC's attention. You can reach me on 0418 863186 or tom.blake@grdc.com.au.



GM crops Bill passes Parliament

Premier of South Australia—Media Release

13/05/2020 | Tim Whetstone MP

The Marshall Liberal Government's Legislation to lift the Genetically Modified (GM) moratorium and allow GM crops to be grown on mainland South Australia has passed Parliament.

This gives farmers the certainty to plan well in advance of the 2021 grain growing season.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone said this is an historic day for farmers in South Australia.

"South Australian farmers have been looking forward to this day for nearly two decades," said Minister Whetstone.

"By lifting the GM moratorium on mainland South Australia, we are backing our farmers and researchers to grow the state's agriculture sector and create jobs.

"Now the legislation has passed Parliament our grain growers have the certainty they need to invest in GM seed and plant GM crops in time for the 2021 grain growing season.

[Learn more:](#)

SA Police given power to stop harvesting during dangerous weather conditions

Premier of South Australia—Media Release

01/05/2020 | Corey Wingard MP

The Marshall Government this week passed legislation to ensure lives, homes, properties, crops and livestock are further protected during dangerous bushfire conditions.

The Fire and Emergency Services Miscellaneous Amendments Bill gives South Australia Police the power to direct grain growers to cease harvesting on days when weather conditions may cause a grass or bushfire.

The amendments were passed following recommendations from a bipartisan select committee that looked at whether legislation around power to direct was needed and if so who should be responsible for enforcing it.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Corey Wingard, said the historic legislation is years in the making.

"This issue was first raised back in 2013 when the Hon. Paul Holloway undertook a review of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 and flagged the need for a power to direct," the Minister said.

[Learn More:](#)

ACTFORAG

Stephanie Schmidt—Clinical Psychologist

2020 South Australian AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Winner, Stephanie Schmidt is excited to launch the pilot for her ACTFORAG program.

ACTFORAG provides practical skills to learn to thrive in adversity, with the aim of building resilient farmers, families and businesses. The program provides practical, easy to use strategies to manage the challenges that life throws at us and skills to choose to do what is most important to us. The program is developed for farmers, farming couples/families and rural communities to build skills to manage stress and daily challenges and is open to individuals as well as couples or farming families to take part in together. As the South Australian Winner of the 2020 AgriFutures Rural Women's Award, Steph was awarded a \$10,000 Westpac Bursary to bring this program to life.

Steph is a clinical psychologist, farmer, wife and mum, who runs a family farm with her husband and two young sons. She is acutely aware of the challenges of farming life, over the years experiencing drought, hailstorms, fires and the day to day challenges of farming life.

Steph is passionate about building the strength and resilience of farmers and rural communities and combines her psychological knowledge and lived experience of farming in this new program.

"The program focuses on building skills in psychological flexibility, which in a nutshell, is the ability to be in challenging situations, step back from difficult thoughts and feelings, and choose to do what is most important to you. For example this might be as simple as setting a goal to connect with your partner everyday via a text message or phone call, even if you are feeling tired, stressed or frustrated," said Steph.

While the program was initially developed with an aim of running face to face sessions, due to the current limits of social distancing the program will be run over Zoom. This has potential wider benefits with being able to deliver the program across a number of geographical locations.

This activity is supported by funding from the Country SA PHN through the Australian Government PHN Program. The pilot program will focus on supporting drought affected regions in South Australia – individuals from drought impacted communities are encouraged to apply. Eligible council areas include: Upper North (Peterborough, Flinders Ranges, Orroroo/Carrington, Mt Remarkable, Goyder), North East Pastoral (Pastoral Unincorporated Area), Northern Yorke Peninsula (Copper Coast), Murray Mallee (Mid Murray, Loxton/Waikerie, Renmark Paringa, Karoonda East Murray, Coorong, Murray Bridge), Eyre Peninsula (Franklin Harbour, Cleve, Kimba, Streaky Bay, Wudinna, Ceduna).

If your community or organisation is interested in running an ACTFORAG program either in person once restrictions lift, or via zoom, please get in touch with Steph.

For further Media information contact:

Stephanie Schmidt 0421643322

cultivatepsych@gmail.com



ACTFORAG

**PRACTICAL SKILLS TO LEARN TO THRIVE IN ADVERSITY –
FOR A RESILIENT FARM, FAMILY AND BUSINESS**

This training provides practical, easy to use strategies to manage the challenges that life throws at us and skills to choose to do what is most important to us. The program is developed for farmers, farming couples/families and rural communities to build skills to manage stress and daily challenges.

This pilot is developed by Stephanie Schmidt, 2020 South Australian AgriFutures Rural Womens Award Winner. Steph is a clinical psychologist, farmer, wife and mum and shares evidence-based skills together with her own lived experience.

This program has been made possible with funding from Country SA PHN.

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An Australian Government Initiative



**FUTURE TRAINING
SESSIONS
OCT/NOV 2020**

**UNDERSTAND YOUR
BRAIN IN STRESS**

**HOW TO BE
PRESENT AND
ENGAGED**

**UNHOOK FROM
TRICKY THOUGHTS
AND FEELINGS**

**DO WHAT'S MOST
IMPORTANT TO YOU!**

**REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
FOR FUTURE WORKSHOPS BY
EMAILING STEPH @
cultivatepsych@gmail.com**

**OR
Contact Steph – 0421643322
www.cultivatepsych.com.au**

JOIN US FOR INNOVATION GENERATION

ONLINE MASTERCLASS 2020



**Places are limited,
register today!**

GrainGrowers have had to cancel their traditional face to face Innovation Generation event due to Covid-19 restrictions.

However, an Online Masterclass concept will be running this year instead.

Places are limited! Register now

Online Masterclass 2020

Grain farming is about long term vision and young Ag professionals are invited to look to the future of their enterprise and industry.

This year Innovation Generation is being delivered a little differently. Six Masterclasses, exclusively for growers under 35* are taking place, starting from August. Places are limited to allow for an individual, tailored experience and an opportunity to engage with other participants.

TICKETS to the first Masterclass are available now!

4 August at 10am (AEST)

Grower ticket per session \$10.00

Register Here: <https://www.innovationgeneration.com.au/registration/>



CONNECTING DROUGHT COMMUNITIES – EVENTS GRANT

The expanded \$21 million South Australian Government's Drought Support Program includes the Connecting Drought Communities – Events Grant .

Grants of up to \$10,000 are available for drought-affected communities and industry groups, clubs, associations, societies, District and Regional Councils to hold activities, events and functions aimed at helping members of drought-affected communities maintain their wellbeing and build resilience.

The program is open to industry, community, local government, not-for-profit, incorporated groups and organisations within drought-affected areas of South Australia and is administered by Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA).

Further Details: [PIRSA Drought Support](#)



Lifetime Ewe Management Course - Expressions Of Interest

Would you like to undertake the Lifetime Ewe Management Training discussed at last years UNFS Member's Expo?

We have had a number of enquiries about running one and are seeking expressions of interest from members to organise the next instalment.

Please check out the information in the link below or chat to one of the past participants about what it is like.

Please contact Rachel Trengove – rachel@unfs.com.au or Mobile: 0438 452 003 to register.

We require 5 registrations to continue - with up to 8 participants per group.

<https://www.wool.com/people/education-and-leadership/lifetime-ewe-management/>



South Australia Livestock Advisor Update

30th July 2020

9am-5pm

Theme - Business Resilience

Virtual Conference by Zoom

This program is designed to support us and our clients to come out of the recent challenging few months with the information, tools and research to support business resilience

Check out the [PROGRAM](#)

Cost: \$50

[REGISTRATIONS](#) close 29th July 2020

Proudly supported by MLA, AWI and the SA Livestock Consultants



Did you Seed Share an AGT variety for planting this season?

If so, this is a reminder to growers who have sold or bought seed of AGT varieties through the AGT Seed Sharing™ Initiative that the license agreement is now due.

The Seed Sharing™ license agreement form can be found on our [website](http://agtbreeding.com.au) (agtbreeding.com.au) under the 'sourcing seed' tab. Once this form is completed and is received by AGT, the purchaser will then be registered to legally grow and deliver that variety.

Thank you to those growers who utilised the Seed Sharing™ initiative and have already completed and submitted the license agreement form.

For further information, contact the AGT End Point Royalty Team on Phone: (08) 7111 0209 or Email: epr@agtbreeding.com.au

Interest Free help available to farmers

By Craig Turner, Business Development Manager QLD/NT/Nth NSW
Regional Investment Corporation

While communities are dealing with the impacts of coronavirus, for farmers, drought challenges have not gone away.

With South Australia expecting an improved outlook for the season, restocking and replanting are back on the agenda.

That's where the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) can help with long-term drought recovery and return to production.

Whether a farm business needs to improve moisture and nutrient retention, build containment feeding for livestock or cover existing costs, the RIC has a Drought loan available to help farm businesses get back on their feet by slashing the interest they have to pay.

The loan, lending up to \$2 million, enables farmers to deal with ongoing dry conditions, restock or prepare for future drought events and can be used to pay existing costs or as a source of capital.

Many enterprises are using the loan to free-up cash flow over the medium term by refinancing existing debt.

The Drought loan offers two years' interest free with no repayments, which gives the enterprise breathing space to undertake recovery activities.

After two years, the loans become interest-only for three years before principal and interest repayments begin.

Repayment frequency is then tailored to suit the business, with no extra fees.

The RIC will work with the farmer and their bank to help find the best solution for the enterprise, with repayments also structured to best support the business.

Farmers are required to demonstrate financial impact from drought over a two-year period – the RIC recommends talking to their commercial lender for immediate working capital needs and using a Drought Loan to repay short-term credit facilities businesses might use to cover the purchase of cropping inputs or livestock.

To apply, visit the RIC website, www.ric.gov.au/drought - applicants are urged to inform their current commercial lender if they intend to make an application and fill out the application in full to ensure it is assessed. To discuss your eligibility please call 1800 875 675.



Disclaimer: "Regional Investment Corporation is a sponsor of the UNFS. This article is supplied and not endorsed by the UNFS".

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KEEPING YOUR AGRIBUSINESS SAFE FROM CYBER-FRAUD

ARTICLE PROVIDED BY NAB CYBER SECURITY

How to protect your Agribusiness

1. Back up your business data regularly.

This could be as simple as copying your data onto a USB stick or a removable hard drive and storing it somewhere safe. It's best practice to back-up your data on two different devices. You can also consider backing up your data to a secure cloud service.

Remember to disconnect the back-up device from the computer when you're finished, as attackers are known to encrypt or delete back-ups connected to the computer or network.

It's also important to test your back-up frequently by restoring data to a test location. This helps identify any problems, so you can be confident that your back-up will work in an actual crisis.

2. Use one computer that is for general family use, and one that is strictly for business.

If your work computer is also used for social media, playing games, watching videos and streaming music by you or other family members, it's more vulnerable to security issues. That's because non-work use increases the risk of accidentally clicking on a suspicious link or allowing malicious software to be installed. Use a separate computer for business tasks and banking to help minimise this risk.

3. Check emails carefully.

Cyber criminals commonly use email to deliver malicious software. Some emails carrying malicious software or ransomware may appear to be a legitimate invoice from a farm supplier, an energy company or the ATO, for example. Always check the sender address, ensure the request looks valid and consider whether the email is expected before responding to them. Be extra careful with emails that:

- you're not expecting
- come from unknown senders or an unusual address

contain attachments or suspicious links.

Learn more about [how to spot spam and phishing emails](#). You can also see the [latest security alerts](#) you need to be aware of.

4. Turn on Multi-Factor Authentication.

Add an extra layer of security to your email and banking accounts by turning on [Multi-Factor Authentication \(MFA\)](#). This means providing an additional piece of information, such as an SMS code sent to your phone or a security token, in addition to your password, when you access your accounts. This can prevent unauthorised access even if someone has your password.

5. Install anti-virus software on your computers and use an up-to-date operating system.

It's important to keep your anti-virus software up-to-date to protect yourself from the latest security threats. While trial anti-virus software is free, the software usually only updates during the trial period. Check your software to confirm that it's active and set to automatically update, scan and flag suspicious activity.

Also, turn on automatic updates for your computer's operating system and programs. This will ensure your computer always has the latest security updates. Each operating system is slightly different, so if you're unsure check the Microsoft or Apple websites for information.

6. Remember that your business relies on other people's computers as well as your own.

Don't be afraid to ask your accountant, bookkeeper or business manager about their online security practices, to see how they're protecting your data. Cyber criminals often target third parties to gain access to a business's data.

If you've made a substantial investment in information technology, talk to an impartial advisor. People who sell the equipment might downplay the risks while people who sell cyber security might recommend more protection than is strictly necessary. No-one can guarantee that you won't be hacked, but, like regular thieves, the majority of cyber criminals are opportunists. In most cases, all you need to do is convince them that they should move on to an easier target.

For more great information on how to keep safe, visit nab.com.au/security



“Something to listen to”



Supporting children through drought

Podcast series by **Emerging Minds**

Drought can impact children in the same way as adults – particularly when it comes to worries in the family. It is a whole-family and whole-community issue, but everyone experiences drought uniquely, and can have different reactions to the same event.

Emerging Minds and Country SA PHN have produced a series of eight podcasts for the National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health. In the podcasts you will hear from parents, practitioners and community members about practical ways that they have supported children’s mental health during drought.

The podcasts are 10-20 minutes long. With a unique lens on children aged 0-12 years, the podcasts focus on supporting their social and emotional wellbeing during times of drought.

[Tune in today](#)

Check out the GRDC you tube channel

to find a series of webinars recorded for the GRDC Southern Pulse Extension Project:
"Growing Pulses in 2020 "

- [Broadleaf and grass weed control in Pulses](#) – Chris Preston, University of Adelaide.
- [Inoculation and nodulation of pulses](#) – Ross Ballard, South Australian Research and Development Institute.
- [Growing pulses on sand](#) – Michael Moodie, Frontier Farming Systems.
- [Pulse markets for Victoria and SA, pre-season 2020](#) – Francois Darcus, AgriOz Exports.
- [Pulse disease diagnostics](#) – Dominie Wright, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia.
- [Pre-emergent herbicides in pulses](#) – Tony Craddock, Rural Directions, and David Keetch, Nufarm.





“Something to listen to”



Want to find out more about the weed chipper—click [here](#) to listen



Listen and learn: practical pulse growing explained

A new podcast series and workshop webinar recording are providing practical insights into boosting nitrogen fixation in pulses for growers and advisers.

The podcasts can be listened to via:

Introduction and pre-sowing inoculation: <https://soundcloud.com/grdc/introduction-and-pre-sowing-innoculation>

Dry sowing: <https://soundcloud.com/grdc/dry-sowing>

Acid soils: <https://soundcloud.com/grdc/acid-soils>

In-season assessment: <https://soundcloud.com/grdc/in-season-assessment>

Profit First Precision Ag (PA)

Are you considering an investment in PA? Are you curious to know what PA opportunities might be relevant for your district? Have you previously considered PA but found it difficult to tell if there would be a payback from it?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then check out the resources from the GRDC funded project, “Assessing the Economic Value of PA tools for farming businesses in the Southern Region”. <https://grdc.com.au/resources-and-publications/all-publications/publications/2020/profit-for-precision-agriculture/>

You will find a comprehensive decision making guide, case studies, fact sheets and a series of short videos to help you profit from a PA investment. For further information contact Patrick Redden at Rural Directions (predden@ruraldirections.com) or Kate Burke at ThinkAgri (thinkagri@icloud.com).



Funding Bodies



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Global Grain Genetics



Upcoming Events Calendar

July

22-23	Business EDGE Young Guns, Adelaide	Rural Directions 08 8841 4500
23	Jamestown Market	Jamestown Office 8664 1108
28	Webinar - GRDC Farm Business Update , Minlaton	ORM Communications 03 5441 6176
29	Webinar - GRDC Farm Business Update , Clare	ORM Communications 03 5441 6176
30	Virtual Conference - SA Livestock Consultants Annual Update , Hahndorf	Elke Hocking 0427 667 081
30	Australian Grains Industry Virtual Conference ,	AGIC Australia 0412 582 187

August

4-6	WeedSmart Week, Clare	Lisa Mayer 08 6488 3189
20	Jamestown Market	Jamestown Office 8664 1108

September

2	SADGA Durum Cropwalk , Roseworthy	Deb Baum 0481 322 821
9	Minnipa Field Day, Minnipa	
15	Hart Field Day, Hart	Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154
17	Jamestown Market - Feature Ewe Market	Jamestown Office 8664 1108
24	UNFS 2020 Members Expo, Booleroo Centre	Kristina Mudge 0438 840 369

October

7	SADGA Durum Cropwalk , Wolseley	Deb Baum 0481 322 821
8	Jamestown Market	Jamestown Office 8664 1108
20	Spring Twilight Walk, Hart	Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154
22	Jamestown Market - Feature Ewe Market	Jamestown Office 8664 1108
22-24	Australian National Field Days, Borenore	ANFD 02 6362 158

November

5	Jamestown Market	Jamestown Office 8664 1108
19	Jamestown Market	Jamestown Office 8664 1108

December

10	Jamestown Market - Feature with Lamb Market	Jamestown Office 8664 1108
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