

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

June 2022

Roll Up... Roll Up...

Ruth Sommerville, EO

How nice to write this after a couple of rainy days...fingers crossed for a few more over the weekend so you can read it with a cuppa and the sound of rain on the roof. It has felt like a long summer and I for one am very glad to have winter finally here.

And what a winter and spring we have planned for you in the trial, demonstration and extension space...so get that post-em spraying done, make sure those lambs are marked and check your sheering dates...you aren't going to want to miss a thing!

We have some great new trials to visit. Two MLA funded Producer Demonstration Site Projects incorporate 8 different sites for you to visit and 2 intensive learning groups - "Lotsa Lambs" - looking at genetics and reproduction, and "Improved Pasture Management Systems"...you guessed it - looking at pastures, monitoring and managing them for increased Food On Offer. The first of the Lotsa Lambs workshops will be held in June, case studies for both will be on display at the TTT event in July and site visits will be a feature of the spring crop walks.

Investigating the profitability of Canola in the Upper North has begun with funding from SAGIT. This will be a 3 year project delivered at 3 sites each year and we look forward to opening them up for inspection in Spring as part of our spring crop walks.

Intercropping with dual purpose varieties will be investigated at Melrose, funded by the SA Drought Hub Orroroo Node with Penny Roberts from SARDI running the trial for UNFS. This will co-exist with a number of other pulse trials at this site and will be a feature of our members expo in September. We also continue to work on crop pathogens with trials looking at Crown Rot management at Baroota and Septoria at Booleroo Centre.

Regenerating Goyders Line sites will be sown in June with a great bus tour from Burra to Bird Lake visiting these and other pasture and grassland regeneration sites on June 30th.

There will be a number of soil pits for you to visit and learn from through-out winter/spring, 2 in June with Andrew Harding near Melrose (date tba), one in September near Mount Robert and potentially a 4th as part of our spring crop walk series. These hands-on site visits complement our suite of fact sheets, podcasts and technical reviews recently released...more inside the newsletter.

And our feature showcase for the year, delayed by COVID, but back better than before "Tools, Technology and Transformation" will be held on July 14th at Melrose. It is a showcase of Ag Tech for all components of primary production in the region and will be a must attend event. Trade display and general attendance registrations now open. Free to attend and all welcome!

In This Issue

- Tools Technology and Transformation Hub Reports
- Ladies on the Land Report
- Producer Tech Uptake
- Precision Ag Fact Sheet
- Grain Market Snapshot

- Grain Insurance
- Drought Resilience Initiative
- And more!

Upper North
Farming Systems

Tools, Technology and Transformation

Save the Date!

14th July 2022

Melrose Show Grounds

A full day event showcasing tools and technology to improve efficiency, productivity and profitability in livestock and cropping enterprises of the Upper North. The day will incorporate demonstrations, workshops, presentations and trade displays.

Please contact morgan@unfs.com.au or visit www.unfs.com.au for further information



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



Future
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UNFS is Hiring!

UNFS is looking for a Program Manager to join our team. This new role is a full-time position (potential for part-time for right person) based in the region working across all areas of the organisation, including Group Governance, Research Trials and Extension Activities. Follow the Seek link: <https://www.seek.com.au/job/57181293> for the full details.

The role is flexible both in its content and how it is delivered, so if you are interested in joining our enthusiastic group of volunteers, staff and RD&E Partners in delivering mixed farming trials, extension events and knowledge building opportunities to the farmers of the Upper North of South Australia please call Pinion on 1300746466 for the job description and a discussion of the details of the role.



The advertisement features a background image of a vast agricultural field with yellow flowers in the foreground and mountains in the distance under a clear sky. In the top left corner is the UNFS logo, which includes a stylized sheep and the text 'UNFS Upper North Farming Systems'. In the top right corner is the Pinion Advisory logo, featuring a stylized 'P' and the text 'pinion ADVISORY'. The main text 'POSITION VACANT' is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the center. Below it, 'Program Manager - Upper North Farming Systems' is written in a smaller white font. Further down, a line of text reads 'Facilitating capacity building and empowerment of the Agricultural Community across the Upper North region.' At the bottom, a line of text says 'Please call Pinion Advisory on 1300 746 466 to obtain the job description and learn more.' A small sign in the field on the left reads 'Low Rainfall Zone Intercropping'.

UNFS Commercial Paddock Update

UNFS commercial paddock at Booleroo has been sown as a hay crop this year to get on top of some weeds. Big thanks to Northern Ag for letting us use their paddock to generate funds for the group. A massive shout out to those that make the season happen. So far the following has been undertaken:

- Summer sprayed by Orrock Farming
- Sown by Wayne Chapman and Phil Waters.
- Rolled by Schwark Farming
- Seed donated by Gum View Pastoral - Jesse and Joel McCallum.

Another example of the volunteer effort that goes into making UNFS the amazing group it is. We cannot thank everyone enough for their involvement.



CONGRATULATIONS

to UNFS member

TIM LUCKRAFT

Tim has won 2 reserved members tickets to an Adelaide Crows or Port Power game at Adelaide Oval in season 2022 courtesy of

Centre State Exports Pty Ltd



CentreState
EXPORTS PTY LTD

UNFS



(This prize is usually drawn at the UNFS Members Expo but not available at that time in 2021. Prize was to be drawn at the Tools Tech and Transformation event scheduled in February 2022 but postponed due to COVID. Member draw done by random generated number by Kristina Mudge, witnessed by Ruth Sommerville on 3rd May 2022).



Soil Chat Podcast Beth Humphris



Another UNFS resource 'HOT OFF THE PRESS'!!!

We were very excited to release our Soil Chat podcast and literature review a few weeks ago as part of our Soils Knowledge Project. These are two farmer friendly resources talking all things soil management in the upper north. If you haven't seen these yet, follow the links below to have a listen and read.

Podcast: <https://bit.ly/3kAVszl>

Literature Review: <https://bit.ly/3OV8ZjS>

Moving forward, this project will complete a total of 5 case studies all looking at soil management across the upper north. These case studies, along with a brief description are highlighted in the included table.

The first of these case studies was implemented on the 29th of April. This is the deep ripping trial which is aiming to ameliorate various sub-soil constraints by moving product into the subsoil via fracturing the hard pan. Keep an eye out on our socials for a video highlighting the finer details of what was done here.

	Case study title	Description
Case study 1	Pastures erosion on arable land	This project aims to match crop type and grazing technique, to impacts on soil erosion. This will focus mainly on soil erosion over the summer fallow period and the impacts this has on the overall soil health and function of the farming system. The expected outcome from this project is to produce a ranking system of management styles around the pasture rotation.
Case study 2 / 3	Improving soil structure and structural stability using a change to management	This project will be a two part study which aims to compare various management techniques commonly used to improve soil structure and structural stability. These include controlled traffic, use of a stripper front and full stubble retention and the incorporation of deep-rooted crop species.
Case study 4	Amending sub-soil constraints including acidity, sodicity and compaction layers	A deep ripping trial, aiming to move soil ameliorates into the sub-soil resource and hence correct issues found at depth. This will be a trial site using replicated treatments to identify the use of ripping as a tool to correct hostile sub soil conditions in a clay based soil type. The project will run over two growing season, established at the start of the 2022 growing season.
Case study 5	Use of precision agriculture mapping to identify and ameliorate constraints	A case study looking at high resolution soil map layers and how soil variation has changes over time with site specific management.

UNFS Event report -TTT Pre-season hub events

Morgan McCallum – Engagement Coordinator



The first round of hub events kicked off in March as a plan, review and plan type of event. Four total events were held throughout the upper north region.

7th March – Young Farmers Hub

This event was held in Jamestown with Steph Lunn presenting the findings from the UNFS Barley Time of Sowing trial. Jade Rose joined via zoom giving a brief overview of the UNFS projects that were finishing up in the 2021/22 season.

Guest presenter Mary O'Brien from "Are you Boggled Mate?" attended speaking on rural men's mental health. Mary provided the group with some tips and tactics on recognising the signs that someone may be feeling a bit 'boggled' and some great insight on how to manage these situations. "Are you bogged mate?" is all about helping country blokes talk about mental health and suicide while spreading awareness about depression in the bush.



17th March – Booleroo/Appila Hub

The Booleroo/Appila hub met at the Appila town hall. The focus of this event was on livestock record keeping. Guest speaker Phoenix Livestock attended the event via zoom and gave all the attendees a run through on the web-based program and the Phoenix Livestock app. Phoenix Livestock enables you to collect cost of production information and turn it into usable information that you can act on. It interacts with the NLIS database making electronic tag reconciliation a simple process.

Darren Pech from Elders Jamestown also presented the findings on the UNFS Cover Crop project and touched on the aims and outcomes from this trial. Jade Rose also joined via zoom providing a brief overview of the UNFS projects that are currently finishing up this season.

31st March – Quorn & Wilmington Hubs

The Quorn and Wilmington hubs combined for this event and held it at the Wilmington Oval Complex. Michael Eyres from Field Systems Australia attended the event and presented on the UNFS Micronutrients trial and touched on all things soils.

Guest Speaker Miles Cockington from Podium Livestock also attended presenting on what their business can offer on stock management and merino flock profiling. Podium livestock is a company based on the Yorke Peninsula and encourages flock profiling to add to their marketing strategy to reach maximum value for a vendor's products, whilst refining their genetic gain. Podium can provide assistance to vendors with flock profiling information, set up, application and processing of data results.



4th April – Orroroo/Pekina/Morched/Black Rock hub event

Members met at the Orroroo football club rooms. It was a jam-packed event discussing all things 'livestock and data recording'. Hub rep Tom Kuerschner gave attendees a briefing on the Production Wise web-based program and conducted a step-by-step example on how to use the program and what you can get out of it. Beth Sleep presented on AgWorld and shared her experience using this data base.

Beth also presented on the UNFS Barely Grass management trial and went through the key findings over the past three years and the outcomes that came out of the trial and some potential future work that is in the works.

AgriWebb then joined via zoom as the guest speaker giving a very in depth run through of both the AgriWebb website and the app, giving attendees insight on what AgriWebb does and how it can fit into their enterprise. AgriWebb is the singular digital platform that moves our industry forward. Our proprietary Livestock Enterprise Management solutions empower producers and supply chain innovators to visualize, connect, and leverage unique business insights to inform a more profitable, efficient, and sustainable future.

6th April - Controlled Traffic Farming Day / Jamestown Hub event



The day was attended by both local and out of area growers interested in controlled traffic related information and discussion on implementation, observed production change and recorded benefits.

Edward Scott of Field Systems who articulated and explained the visual and laboratory analysed soil data from a CTF perspective. Two different pits were reviewed and discussed on site. Excellent insight and advice. Luke and Scott Clark, the farm owners and UNFS members, who explained their history in CTF, the reasons they moved to such a system, the changes they have seen and all of the pitfalls and progress points in CTF management. Great to hear from the practitioners on their own farm.

Michael Eyres of Field Systems discussed general land management strategy for CTF including soil amelioration, management of residue, soil stratification and water infiltration / retrieval from depth. Wide range of interrelated topics that are important for CTF management.

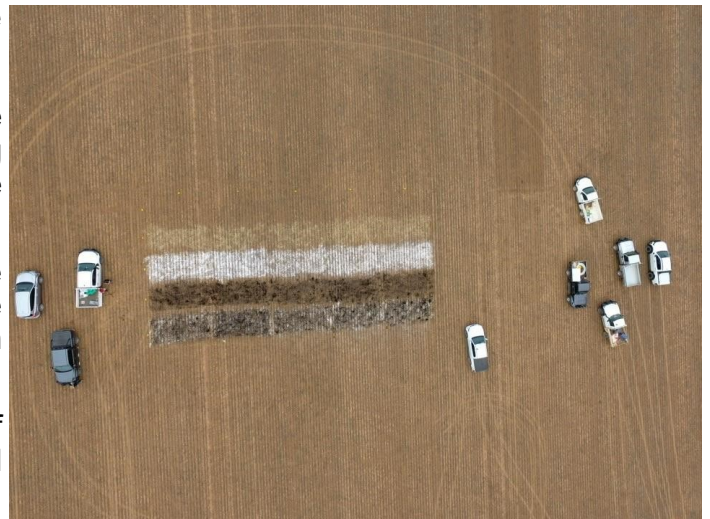
Upper North Farming Systems would like to thank Beth Sleep for her valuable soil insights and contribution during the afternoon. An excellent day at a difficult time of the year for growers to find the time to attend. Thank you also to Luke and Scott Clark for organising the event.

29th April - Deep Ripping Demonstration / Melrose Hub event

This event was held as a paddock session (near Melrose SA). Attendees observed and learnt from industry reps from Soil Systems Australia and WSB Distributors, Jamestown about the new Agrowplow machine and the implementation of deep ripping. The farmer implementing this deep ripping trial mentioned this was the first time they'd attempting doing anything like this.

The Sales Manager from WSB Distributors spoke to the growers in attendance about the advantages of using the Agrowplow if deep ripping needs to be implemented on farm, providing an on site demonstration.

Upper North Farming Systems would like to thank all of the contributors on the day; Elders Jamestown, Field Systems , WSB Distributors , Peats Soil and Garden Supplies and Penrice Quarry & Mineral that made this demonstration possible.



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Event Report—UNFS Producer Tech Uptake

Jessica Koch

The last Producer Tech Uptake Workshop was held at Laura on the 29th March. It was fantastic to hold this final event face to face. Of the five workshops in total for this project, two were held via Zoom, two face to face, and another one as a combination of the two. Myself, Beth Humphris and Michael Zwar were happy to speak to an engaged and interactive group of farmers and industry reps keen to use precision agriculture to plan for the season ahead. I spoke about organising and interpreting precision ag map layers and how to follow a logical pathway when getting started with yield data.

Michael Zwar spoke about the soil sampling strategies he uses and some of the ways that his clients have benefited when using the data for ameliorants for lime. There were some great tips on managing guidelines and boundaries too.

Beth Humphris gave a 'crash course in soils', describing the basic chemical, physical and biological soil constituents relevant to grain growing. She discussed different soil techniques and how precision ag data could assist in choosing meaningful soil test locations that are georeferenced. Beth and I worked some variable rate fertiliser examples, demonstrating how to calculate rates for a VR map, and how to create a strip trial. It was fantastic to be able to speak to a local case study example – the [Baroota Fact sheet](#) also produced for the Agrifutures project on the Dennis' property.

Breezy Hill
Precision Ag Services



Precision Ag Directory

Precision Ag Mapping Services

AgTech Services Michael Zwar – 0407 030 244

Breezy Hill Precision Ag Services – Jessica Koch – 0407 986 557

Agronomy and Soil Testing Services

Crystal Brook

Nutrien Ag (Kerin Agencies) – (08) 86362336

Platinum Ag Services – (08) 86362467

Jamestown

Nutrien Ag (KLR) - (08) 86641108

Elders – (08) 86642300

Precision Ag Hardware, Sales and Support

WSB Distributors – (08) 86640101

Pringles Crouch – (08) 86672257

Rocky River Ag Services – (08) 86362772

Flinders Machinery – (08) 86672002

Specialty Soils Services

Ed Scott and Michael Eyres – Field Systems Australia – 1300 550 440

Beth Humphris (Elders Jamestown)
– 0418 327 460

*This is a continually evolving document.
If you would like to be included, please contact morgan@unfs.com.au*



Ladies on the Land Hub event – Bubbles and Chats

Ladies on the Land hosted their second “Bubbles and chats” on the 12th of April in Orroroo. This event was well attended with 57 attendees in total.

Our first presenter, Emily Briggs spoke on her personal story of building a wool brand from scratch. She highlighted the struggles of launching her own business and what she had learnt, especially in the area of online business marketing.

Our second presenter, Hannah Pech who is an ambassador for The Healthy Mummy brand, spoke about what her life is like as a mother of five children and how she started to run marathons to transform her health and life.

Thirdly, Dr. Alice Nottle from Booleroo Centre explained how she navigates the balance of being a gastroenterologist specialist in a rural area whilst juggling being a mother and a partner on a family farm. Alice also runs ‘Good Gracious Gut’ on Facebook which is a space to share information about all things gut related.

Lastly Bec Redden shared her life growing up on a pastoral station and how she took her passion for sport and channelled her energies into playing football for the North Adelaide Roosters and the difficulties associated with playing a professional sport.

The evening finished with light refreshments and nibbles and a tour of the newly opened ‘5431 Collective’ boutique which is situated in the main street of Orroroo.

This Ladies on the Land event provided local women with an opportunity to socialise, learn from and spend time with other like-minded women, with many attendees indicating that this was their first time at an UNFS hub event, which they thoroughly enjoyed and gave plenty of positive feedback.

Upper North Farming Systems would like to thank Landscape SA Northern and Yorke for funding this event and ‘5431 Collective’ for catering the event.



Fact Sheet Launch: Precision Ag Map Layers to Think About Frost Differently

We are thrilled to launch the second fact sheet publication in this series, developed and written by Jessica Koch, Breezy Hill Precision Ag Services.

The precision ag fact sheets are designed to build confidence and digital literacy in farmers who are under utilising or not utilising current data and technology.

This frost fact sheet outlines how to use affordable and easily accessible elevation data recorded from standard ag machinery to monitor and spatially manage frost. We hope this is a useful document coming into the 2022 growing season and sparks your interest or ideas to use precision ag data in other elements of your farming operations – the opportunities truly are endless with data available at our fingertips!

The precision ag soil fact sheet based at Baroota is also available on our website, for those looking to utilise their map data for soil testing.

We are grateful to both the Dennis family at Baroota, and the Orrock family at Murraytown for providing the sites for analysis and being generous with their time and sharing of data.

These publications are funded by Agrifutures for the Producer Technology Uptake Project and the GRDC for the Frost Extension Project.

You can access this fact sheet via the UNFS website: [publications](#)



How to use

PRECISION AG MAP LAYERS

to think about frost differently

Jessica Koch (Breezy Hill Precision Ag Services)

Frosts strike across southern and eastern agricultural regions nearly every season, with most damage caused in early spring during flowering. Frost is one of the biggest environmental and ultimately financial, issues grain growers are faced with, given there are no genetic strategies to mitigate the effects of frost, and very few cost-effective options for insurance.

Actual occurrence of frost is determined by location and landscape factors as well as climate. The rate of cooling and final temperature of the plant canopy is determined in part by the balance between thermal radiation emitted to space and radiation absorbed from the soil. Local topography is also important, as cold air tends to run down slopes and drainage lines and will pool in flats and basins. Barriers such as tree or fence lines can impede flow and allow cold air to accumulate higher in the landscape. The severity of the frost and hence the extent of the subsequent damage is therefore variable across the landscape (Biddulph, 2016).

What is a frost?

Frost - Radiation frost consists of cold, chilling and freezing damage. Canopy air temperatures $\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$

Freezing Temperature - Canopy air temperatures $\leq 0^{\circ}\text{C}$ at which freezing of plant tissue may occur, screen (at 1.2m) temperatures $\leq 2^{\circ}\text{C}$.

There is evidence that cold and chilling temperatures that don't drop to the freezing range cause damage to the plant:

Chilling Temperature - Canopy air temperatures less than 5°C and greater than 0°C

Cold Temperature - Canopy air temperatures less than 8°C and greater than 5°C . From this temperature and below pollen viability is reduced (Thakur et al, 2010; Calakbarti et al., 2011)



Which Precision Ag Layers could we use to make frost management decisions?

There are a variety of precision ag map layers collected and available to the modern grain grower. The wide range of practical uses for map layers is not always realised when making variable crop management decisions. Elevation data for example, is collected and embedded in documentation data from agricultural machinery when recording seeding, spraying or spreading operations. This data is particularly useful when it is recorded using RTK GPS signal, as it is extremely accurate – 2cm in fact. Elevation data can be processed into a map layer which can then be compared with other layers, such as yield data to look for correlations, such as frost impact on yield.



Breezy Hill Precision Ag Services



Mid North High Rainfall Zone— 2022 Key Frost Workshop

Jessica Koch attended the 2022 Key workshop at Farrell flat on the 1st of April. The findings from the UNFS “Frost in the UN” trial located at Todd Orrock’s property in Murray Town were presented in front of a well received group. This was the final wrap up from this project.

UNFS thank all of the contributors that were involved within this trial.

Breezy Hill Precision Ag Services



Mallee Sustainable Farming



You're invited

Producer Demonstration Site – Upper North Farming Systems

Lotsa Lambs – Improving Reproduction Success

WHAT	Workshop 1
WHEN	Tuesday 28th June, 2022 9am till 12pm
WHERE	Don Bottrall's shearing shed, 448 Bottrall Drive, Appila

UNFS has partnered with MLA to deliver this PDS program which supports producers to adapt, validate and demonstrate the business value of integrating new management practices/skills into their local farming systems.

Overview of the Lotsa Lambs PDS Project

This UNFS project will demonstrate that adoption of best practice management strategies can improve reproductive performance of sheep flocks in the Upper North of South Australia. The project will focus on adopting pregnancy scanning for multiples and early/late, selective management of pregnant ewes in containment, smaller mob size at lambing and genetic selection.

What's on the agenda?

Guest speakers Michelle Cousins, Cousins Merino Services and Andrew Michael, Leachim Stud

- Defining a breeding objective
- Merino Flock Profiling—understanding test results & how to use the information
- Understanding Australian Sheep Breeding Values (ASBVs) and Indexes
- Why use ASBVs when buying rams
- Using the RamSelect app
- Pregnancy scanning ewes, splitting twins & singles, and managing smaller mob sizes
- Farmers are encouraged to bring DNA testing results along on the day

Case Study from Alison Henderson who will give an insight into their sheep enterprise and share her experiences and a visit to their farm, 1km from Don's shearing shed

RSVP and for more information

Rachel Trengove **P:** 0438 452 003 **E:** rachel@unfs.com.au

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UNFS Producer Demonstration Sites

Morgan McCallum & Rachel Trengove

UNFS has acquired funding from Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) for two Producer Demonstration Sites (PDS) in our region over the next three years! This is an exciting opportunity for our sheep producers to come together and learn through demonstration and extension of knowledge and skills. The PDS program is intended to support producer groups who have identified a new practice to improve business performance. The projects below were flagged by UNFS members as priorities for our region to explore and learn more about.

PDS 1: **Improved Pasture Management Systems** run by Morgan McCallum

The improved pasture management systems demonstration sites aim to demonstrate that a better understanding of the Food on Offer and the provision of a more diverse pasture for grazing can result in improved animal health and overall performance of sheep as well as:

1. Demonstrate whether a mix of pasture species can provide more FOO than a monoculture and result in improved animal health and performance?
2. Can satellite monitoring of pasture biomass improve feed budgeting?
3. This trial will be over a three year period, with 3 separate demonstration sites per year.

The demonstration site will have a paired sites approach, with two treatments next to each other, minimum of 10 ha in size each. the 2022 treatments are as such:

- Vetch, Vetch/Barley mix. Location: Caltowie
- Vetch, Vetch/Oats mix. Location: Melrose
- Vetch, Vetch/Wheat/Canola mix. Location: Morchard

Upper North Farming Systems thanks Richard McCallum, Kendrick McCallum and Alison Henderson for allowing us to have demonstration sites in their place. These trials cannot happen without the commitment from the landholders.

PDS 2: **Lotsa Lambs – Improving Reproduction Success** run by Rachel Trengove.

As a result of the impact of drought, ewe numbers are low both locally and nationally. To facilitate the rebuild of the flock, it is necessary to produce more from the existing ewe base through maximising reproductive efficiency and minimising mortality. Seasonal conditions have led to many producers aiming for an autumn lambing to maximise feed available to lambs due to shorter springs and extended low feed on offer due to extended summer conditions. Producers are aware of the research that indicates higher lamb survival from twin bearing ewe flocks run as smaller groups at lambing. Most are unsure how to best implement this strategy, particularly in a mixed farming system with a focus on cropping. On the ground solutions and demonstrations are required for producers to be able to see how this strategy could possibly work in their sheep flock. We will have two demonstration sites in our region following 3 lambing cycles. These sites are located at Andrew Kitto's property, Gladstone, and Alison Henderson's property, Caltowie. We will be assessing the cost:benefit of adopting management changes necessary to implement smaller mob size at lambing

Many producers have adopted the strategy of feeding ewes in containment over summer and early autumn, often through much of their pregnancy. Common practice for a Nov-Dec joining is a 7-8 week joining period, and a lack of pregnancy scanning resulting in significant variation in nutritional requirements of the ewes at any one time. The adoption of a reduced joining period, early pregnancy scanning, scanning for multiples and condition scoring should allow targeted feeding of mobs while held in containment, and reduce problems such as dystocia due to over feeding of later lambing single bearers. We will have two sites demonstrating these principles over 2 lambing cycles. These sites are located at Caleb Girdham's property, Melrose, and Will & James Heaslip's property, Appila. We will evaluate the value proposition to managing ewes in containment based on their condition score and foetal number. All four demonstration sites will aim to improve reproductive performance of sheep flocks in the Upper North of South Australia. Over the three-year life of the project there will be multiple extension activities at these sites as a learning opportunity for UNFS livestock producers. The Lotsa Lambs project is made possible thanks to the commitment of the landholders mentioned above, their involvement is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated.

UNFS registrations are open to come on board as a member of our learning groups and attend workshops and demonstration site visits.

Contact: Morgan McCallum
morgan@unfs.com.au 0459718181 or
Rachel Trengove rachel@unfs.com.au
0438452003



ADM Grain Market Snapshot

Nick Jordan



World grain markets remain strong with ongoing demand across all commodities. Production wise, there is increasing dryness on the outlook for the northern hemisphere spring & summer, and adverse weather impacting Northern Hemisphere winter crop at vulnerable stages of development. Parts of the US wheat belt are also suffering from ongoing wet conditions delaying planting. A few country by country reports are as follows: dry in France/Germany/Poland/Baltics, good in Ukraine/Russia and mixed across USA/Canada/South America.

India banning wheat exports has made headlines lately, the reasoning behind the ban is to increase food security/curb inflation locally. This follows an extreme heat wave which has already seen a significant cut to their wheat crop. In a normal year India's exports are insignificant to global supply but the situation in Ukraine and poor crops globally has changed that, there is also uncertainty as to how the ban will impact existing business.

It is forecast that nearly 25 million tonnes of grains are currently stuck in Ukraine and unable to leave the country due to infrastructure challenges and blocked Black Sea ports. There was talk of Russia allowing Ukraine to export some grain (which caused a selloff in the market) in exchange for NATO allowing some Russian fert to leave the country, but given the current state of the relationship, this doesn't look like it will come to fruition. Current prices hinge on the uncertainty of the Ukraine/Russia conflict, global wheat stocks are comfortable if Russia and Ukraine can return to exporting but will be very tight without them.

An otherwise strong Canola market dropped from recent highs on concerns the EU will change biofuel mandates to reduce veg oils being utilised in fuel, this is in response to increasing fuel and food prices. For more info or to discuss marketing contact Nick Jordan on 0487 400 417 or the ADM office on 1300 123 236.

AGT appoint new Variety Support Manager for South Australia



Australian Grain Technologies (AGT) is pleased to announce the appointment of Brad Koster as Variety Support Manager for South Australia, based at the company's Roseworthy Field Crop Breeding Centre.

Brad commenced with AGT in early 2021 in an agronomy and marketing support role but has quickly been promoted to managing AGT's variety awareness and technical support activities throughout SA. Brad will now be AGT's primary contact for South Australian growers and agronomists looking for information on AGT's wheat, barley, durum, canola and lupin varieties.

Born and raised in the mid-north of South Australia, Brad has a strong background in farming, agronomy and agricultural sales. "I'm very excited to take on this role and to have an opportunity to contribute to the continued success of a great company".

"I love the diversity that comes with the job, it covers variety marketing and promotion, seed production, agronomy, trial work and technical support".

"This year we are bringing some exciting new varieties and crop types to market, and I'm looking forward to getting out to field days and chatting to growers, listening to their feedback and using the opportunity to put my experience to use." AGT's Head of Variety Support, Dan Vater, said the appointment was an important one to get right.

"Brad's a perfect fit for our company, with great understanding of the challenges facing SA croppers, excellent attention to detail and work ethic, and a genuine interest in helping farmers do well".

"He's a very friendly, approachable character and will be a great point of contact for farmers and agronomists in SA looking for information on our varieties".

These articles are supplied by a sponsor of UNFS.

Forum to showcase drought resilience-building initiatives

Efforts to strengthen South Australia's drought preparedness and resilience will be recognised and discussed during a national forum next month.

The Australian Government's Future Drought Fund Science to Practice Forum – to be livestreamed across Australia from 7-9 June – will showcase activities and innovations to prepare the state for future droughts.

The South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub will provide an opportunity for industry participants to engage in the Forum at the Hub's headquarters at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus on Tuesday 7 June and Wednesday 8 June.

This will be followed by a field trip by bus on Thursday 9 June that will visit sites of relevance and interest in the Mid North and Barossa Valley, including EzyBale at Freeling where hay and fodder production within a drought context will be the focus.

Other sites to be visited include Turretfield Research Centre (operated by the Department of Primary Industries' research division, the South Australian Research and Development Institute) where thermoregulation of ewes, strategies for managing heat stress in sheep, and sheep reproductive technologies will be among the topics discussed.

Soil and production benefits from the use of mulch and compost in vineyards will be outlined during a visit to Pindarie Winery where lunch will also be provided.

All these events, including the field trip, are free of charge and catering will be provided. To register for any of the three days of SA Drought Hub activities, go to <https://bit.ly/3wCb4K9>.

Those who are unable to attend the in-person events at Roseworthy but wish to join the Forum online can do so by registering at <https://bit.ly/3NvSOs>.

The program for the Science to Practice Forum, available at <https://bit.ly/3MCLKJC>, includes presentations by SA Drought Hub partners and associated organisations, as well as a Hub video recently filmed in SA and featuring UNFS Board member and Elders agronomist Beth Humphris.



MGA Crop Insurance

Australian farms are unique businesses and come in all shapes and sizes, therefore a one size fits all approach doesn't work and they require specialised crop insurance covers. Crop insurance policies come with many different cover and excess options. Being Insurance brokers, MGA has access to a wide variety of policies and insurers, enabling us to find the right crop insurance policy for your individual requirements. The crop insurance products we recommend are designed to protect the essential assets of your farming business and have been tried and tested over our 40+ years of business.

At MGA, we understand that different crops require insurance tailored to your particular requirements. We source insurance quotes, negotiate terms on the clients behalf, place covers, make adjustments if required and

assist in the claims process to ensure that our clients get what is fair and reasonable.

AVAILABLE PRODUCTS:

MGA has vast experience and knowledge in the rural sector and understand that farms have varying needs. Our Brokers will assist you to select the correct **crop insurance** products available to suit your requirements, including:

- Broadacre crops
- Forestry
- Horticulture
- Orchard crops
- Viticulture

Please contact [your local MGA](#)

[office](#) to discuss broadacre or other specialised **crop insurance** covers or visit www.mga.com



Research Participant Information Statement

Research Study Title: Predictors of Help-seeking Behaviours among Rural Farming & Non-farming Women

ACAP HREC Approval Number: 870230522

Researcher's Name: Ass. Prof. Fiona Ann Papps Ms. Liz Kirkby

Researcher's Relationship to ACAP: Employee Student (BPsychSci[H])

What is the study about?

In this research, we are exploring the factors that might predict mental health help-seeking behaviour in rural women. We will be focusing on how assumptions about gender roles, stoicism, self-stigma around seeking mental health help, knowledge about mental health, and distrust of mental health professionals affect attitudes towards mental health help seeking. For this research, we are defining a rural woman as any woman who resides outside an Australian major city in either an inner regional or outer regional or remote or very remote area of Australia.

Who is carrying out the study?

Research is being conducted by Ms. Liz Kirkby for her Bachelor of Psychological Science (Honours) degree in the Discipline of Psychological Sciences at the Australian College of Applied Professions (ACAP). Liz is supervised by Associate Professor Fiona Ann Papps, senior lecturer in the discipline of Psychological Science.

Who can take part in this research?

You can participate in this research if you identify as a woman who resides outside an Australian major city. What this means, is if you live in either *inner regional* or *outer regional* or *remote* or *very remote* Australia as per the map below, you can complete the survey.

<https://www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/home/remoteness+structure>

What does the study involve?

The study consists of an online questionnaire that asks for demographic information about yourself, followed by questions asking about how you express emotion, negative feelings that you might have when you ask for help, how you understand mental health, how masculine or feminine you feel, and how likely you would be to seek help from a mental health professional.

What types of questions will I be asked?

All participants will be invited to complete twelve (12) demographic questions, followed by six (6) questionnaires (total of 85 items), provided in a random order:

- ten (10) questions on your mental health help seeking attitudes
- twenty (20) questions on how you express emotion
- ten (10) questions about any stigma you may feel if you were to seek help
- twenty-six (26) questions regarding your understanding of mental health
- thirteen (13) questions about seeking help from a professional
- six (6) questions about how masculine or feminine you feel

How long will the study take?

The study will take approximately 45 minutes.

Will I incur any costs by participating in the study?

The time taken (approximately 45 minutes) to complete the survey is the primary cost attached to participating.

Are there any risks attached to participating in this study?

In the survey, you will be asked about:

- your identity, such as age, sex, gender, relationship status, and ethnicity
- where you live
- if you are a farmer and other farmer related questions
- your attitude towards seeking help for mental health issues
- how you express emotion and experience stigma when asking for help
- how masculine or feminine you feel
- your perceptions of mental health and mental health professionals

Please contact: Ms. Liz Kirkby, ACAP student, email: 241476@my.acap.edu.au for further information or the full information sheet.



8 ways to get more from your farm insurance

1. Obtain more than one quote and compare more than just the price. It's what you get for your premium that's important.
2. Have a professional explain what cover options are available in the market place, not just from your current insurer.
3. Seek out an Insurance Broker to work on your behalf, to ensure you get your full entitlements when claims arise.
4. Meet with your insurance provider to review and amend your policy at least once a year.
5. Ask what discounts are available and how to access them.
6. Don't skimp on cover, research the replacement value of your assets and get them covered correctly before you need to claim.
7. Perform a risk analysis of your business to find out where you are most vulnerable and take action to minimise those risks.
8. Safeguard you and your business with important insurance covers such as Farm Continuation Expenses, Personal Accident & Illness and Farm Management Liability

How an Insurance Broker can help you?

By sourcing a number of quotes from reputable insurers and comparing covers. Insurance Brokers have access to industry specific policies not available to the wider market

They fully explain what cover options are available and make recommendations.

When claims arise Insurance Brokers come to the fore by providing advice and expertise in the process of settling claims and negotiating payouts with insurers.

As Insurance Brokers they work alongside their clients, reviewing, advising and amending the policy, ensuring that you continue to hold the right cover, now and into the future.

They ensure you don't pay more than you have to by sourcing any discount options available from the insurers.

Insurance Brokers assist clients with reference material, guides and/or online calculators to help establish values for insurance purposes.

They can help clients to identify risks, provide advice on how to minimise or control those risk, which in turn may result in fewer claims and lower premiums

Why should you use an insurance broker?

The role of an insurance broker is to serve their client, by sourcing, advising, placing and maintaining policies on their clients behalf and to manage the claim process. Other parties associated with insurance products, such as insurers or insurance agents are commonly working for the insurance companies when transacting their business. An insurance broker has access to a wide range of insurers and is able to compare costs and covers from the wider market whilst giving their client one reference point to answer queries and manage their cover.

For further information or to find your nearest MGA broker, go to www.mga.com



STANDING BY YOU

This article was supplied by a sponsor of UNFS.



UNFS Annual Expo
8th September 2022





Climate Kelpie
News

Connecting Australian farmers and
their advisors to tools and information
about climate to help make better
decisions about farm business



Welcome to the quarterly Climate Kelpie News, part of the [Managing Climate Variability R&D program](#).

Now in its fifth funding period, the program is continuing to invest in climate forecasting research, services, knowledge and tools for Australian agriculture. This includes the [Forewarned is Forearmed \(FWFA\) project](#), which aims to help farmers manage the impact of extreme weather events through better forecasting.

The Climate Kelpie News and the [Climate Kelpie website](#) provide a wealth of risk management tools and information to help you with your farm business.

A framework to explore climate risky decisions

Farmers are regularly making climate risky decisions such as topdressing crops, adjusting the stocking rate of sheep, changing the ration for dairy cows before an expected heatwave and although these decisions have different context, they all share the same structure where a choice has to be made prior to the event and one choice is preferred under a certain set of future climate conditions. Many of these climate risky decisions involve tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars.

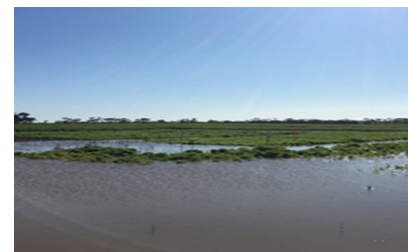
[Hear how a simple framework could help with making climate risky decisions >](#)



What's with the rain and is there more to come?

What's with all the rain? Two La Nina's in a row is pretty unlikely right? Wrong. It's actually not uncommon for a La Niña to occur in two consecutive years. But it's also not just the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean becoming cooler than normal (a La Niña) this year that's driving such wet conditions.

[Learn about how various climate drivers have worked together to deliver much of this rain >](#)



Farming with more than intuition

Barry, whose farm lies outside of Goyder's line (highly variable rainfall and soil type), is always interested in the forecast but wanted to try to turn that interest into greater value as forecasts are only ever a small part of the picture. Through working with SARDI Climate Applications Principal Scientist Dr Peter Hayman they have developed the tool Rapid Climate Decision Analysis and been involved with the development of the new FWFA Extreme Outlooks.

[Read how Barry uses these tools and outlooks as part of the decision-making process >](#)

Better forecasts with the move from ACCESS-S1 to ACCESS-S2

ACCESS-S supports the Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) [multi-week and seasonal climate outlooks](#) and with the second generation of the BoM's ACCESS-based seasonal prediction system, ACCESS-S2, going live late last year, improvements to the forecasts have been made.



[Find out what changes have occurred and how they have improved the forecasts >](#)

Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC)
PO Box 5367 KINGSTON ACT 2604 Australia
Level 4, East Building, 4 National Circuit, Barton ACT 2600
Telephone: (02) 6166 4500 Fax: (02) 6166 4599





Dry times Podcast

Spending every waking moment on a tractor right now?



Then it's a great time to tune into the Drought Resilience Podcast.

Listen to farmers from Orroroo, Eudunda and Keyneton and how they got through times of drought. These are warts-and-all conversations about the realities of dry times for farmers and some of the strategies that helped them along the way.

All four of our podcasts are now available to check out here: <http://tiny.cc/DroughtResilience>

This podcast is supported by the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and National Landcare Program. Thanks to Voice it SA and Talking Livestock.



We'd like your feedback on DR. STAT



The Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR. SAT) is a free tool that enables farmers to assess their resilience against climate change including drought and other climate risks.

The survey should take around 10 minutes to complete, and is accessed by an anonymous link below. This anonymous link means that you cannot be identified through your response unless you provide contact details. Feedback will be presented back to the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment in a report which may include anonymised quotes.

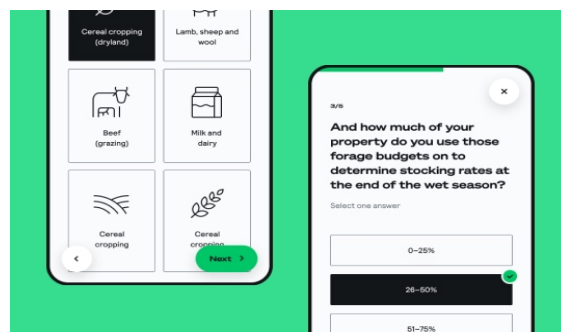
[Take me to the survey](#)

If you would prefer to provide feedback on DR.SAT via phone call - please reach out to help@drsats.com.au and we can organise a time to chat in the upcoming weeks. Your honest response is greatly appreciated.

As a reminder, DR.SAT allows you to:

- Assess your resilience
- Monitor your land
- Climate projections
- Monitor your land
- And more in July.

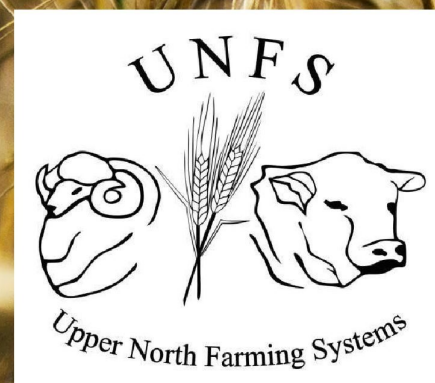
DR.SAT Support Team: help@drsats.com.au



Here's your chance to win
a **TOPCON** manual guidance system
including FREE installation by AgTech Services
to the value of \$9500

All you have to do is attend any UNFS event
(face-to-face or virtual) between 1st March and 7th Sept 2022
and you'll go into the draw to win this great prize

Unlimited Entries. Terms and Conditions Apply
Contact Kristina on M:0438840369 for further info
Lottery Licence No. T22/57



Upper North Farming Systems

Terms and Conditions: Lottery Licence No. T22/57

Lottery commences 1st March 2022.

Entries close Midnight 7th September 2022

Drawn at the UNFS Annual General Meeting in the Booleroo Centre Civic Centre at 9.40am on 8th September 2022 (COVID permitting).

Winner will be published in The Plains Producer, Wednesday 14th September 2022

If required the lottery will be re-drawn at the UNFS Annual General Meeting in the Booleroo Centre Civic Centre at 9.50am on 8th September 2022 (COVID permitting) with the winner published in the The Plains Producer, Wednesday 14th September 2022.

Total Prize Pool: The Topcon Manual Guidance System (including installation by AgTech Services) to the value of \$9500.

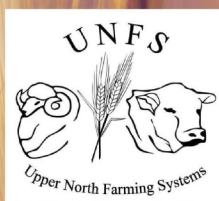
Entry is upon attendance at any UNFS event. Unlimited entries.

To be eligible for entry, persons entering this Lottery must attend an UNFS event either in person or by Zoom meeting online and be either a current UNFS financial member or have paid an entry fee to an event held by UNFS. Employees and Strategic Board Committee Members of UNFS are ineligible for entry;

Business partners of Strategic Board Committee Members are eligible for entry. Employees of Topcon Ltd and AgTech Services are ineligible for entry.

Prize awarded may not be exactly as illustrated.

Agricultural machinery is not included in the prize.



Moving Ag Machinery

Are you a primary producer moving ag machinery on public roads? All South Australian primary producers and ag machinery operators can have their say on ag machinery movement via this short survey from Grain Producers SA as part of the Moving Ag Machinery ... Made Easy! project.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey :

<https://bit.ly/movagmach-survey>



The Moving Ag Machinery ... Made Easy! project is funded by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative, supported by the Federal Government.

Innovation Generation

Farming is about long-term vision, challenging the status quo and building towards a brighter future. Now in its 15th year, the three-day conference for young farmers—Innovation Generation— will give young farmers, students, and agriculture professionals the chance to collaborate and learn alongside likeminded individuals.

Award-winning speakers, innovators, and industry professionals from across the sector will come together to reflect on this year's theme 'Emerging Ag'; the latest and new approaches across all elements of farming. Whether that's creative ways Aussie growers are connecting with the community or looking at innovative ways to create additional revenue streams on-farm, there is a great line up of speakers ready to share new ideas and information that will help your journey in ag.

Young ag professionals, students and farmers are invited to join us on 18-20 July in Sydney for Innovation Generation 2022.

Book your ticket today at innovationgeneration.com.au



FARM HR: CREATING EMPLOYERS OF CHOICE



This practical interactive online workshop series has been developed for those:

- in farm businesses that currently employ,
- who will be employing in the future or,
- who have family members who are working within their farm business.

These workshops will update knowledge and provide reassurance that you are doing the right thing with your employees and family members.

Learning outcomes



Awareness of standards and best practice when employing people



Awareness of the strategies required to be a proactive and compliant people manager



Knowledge of FairWork and the Pastoral Award requirements



Identify the role and value of culture in an effective team

Format

- In person: delivered as a one day workshop
- Online: interactive online workshop via Microsoft Teams, 3 fortnightly sessions, 2 ½ hours per session
- Individualised action planning
- Workbook provided to all participants

Deliverers

Delivered by HR consultants Carlyn Sherriff and Dee Heinjus. Carlyn has been working in this area for 15 years and Dee has consulted in this area for five years. Carlyn and Dee will ensure practical and applied content that comes from a direct understanding of farm workplaces and employing people in agriculture.

Workshops topics

*Do we need to pay leave loading?
How many overtime hours can employees work?
What is included in a salary offer?
What do we need to include in a job description?
How do we retain great staff?*

This online workshop series will answer these common queries and plenty more, including:

- Job descriptions
- Pastoral Award and FairWork overview
- Payroll overview including how much to pay employees
- Workplace health and safety
- Becoming an employer of choice

DATES

Clare, SA: 25 July | 9.00am-4.30pm
Freeling, SA: 28 July | 9.00am-4.30pm
Online: 29 June, 13 July, 27 July | 9.00am-11.30am

Can't make these dates? Please register your interest and we will advise when we have other sessions planned.

INVESTMENT

\$440 early bird (ends May 31)
\$550 per business GST inc

REGISTRATION

 pinionadvisory.com/events



Livestock Forum – Snowtown, Orroroo and Wudinna

Improving your livestock productivity and profitability: Nailing the 1 percenters

Presented by the Red Meat and Wool Growth Program

Learn ways to improve the productivity and profitability of your flock and herd. Join local producers, vets and production specialists to explore the latest applications of best practice livestock management.

Dates and locations

Snowtown - Tuesday 7 June at 8.45 am to 1.00 pm
Snowtown Football Club, North Terrace, Snowtown
Register: <https://livestockforum-snowtown.eventbrite.com.au>

Orroroo - Wednesday 8 June at 8.45 am to 1.00 pm
Black Smith's Chatter Function Room, 7 First Street, Orroroo
Register: <https://livestockforum-orreroo.eventbrite.com.au>

Wudinna - Thursday 9 June at 10.00 am to 3.00 pm
Wudinna Football Club, 43 Medley Terrace, Wudinna
Register: <https://livestockforum-wudinna.eventbrite.com.au>

Livestock Forum is a free event, registration is essential. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Topics and speakers

- Making every moment count: nailing the 'one percenters' - Nathan Scott, Achieve Ag
- Pregnancy management: what we know - Deb Scammell, Talking Livestock
- Managing cattle and sheep diseases - Dr Sean McGrath, Millicent Veterinary Clinic
- Breeding for your best future - Mark Ferguson, neXtgen Agri

Contact

Jodie Reseigh-O'Brien | Mobile: 0428 103 886 | Email: jodie.reseigh@sa.gov.au

For more information on the Livestock Forums visit: <https://www.pir.sa.gov.au/livestock-forums>



COURSE:

Better Farm Bu\$iness by Your Design



You're invited to register for a 2 1/2 day Better Farm Bu\$iness by Your Design (BFBBYD) course for farmers within the Goyder's Line footprint.

This short course will teach and show participants how easy it is to calculate a range of profit and financial indicators from taxation financials. With the assistance of business coaches, you'll do it, not just talk about it!

You will also have the opportunity to compare your business to industry benchmarks, examine how your banker would assess your business using common financial indicators and create an action plan for real business change.

What's in it for me and my business?

- Understand your 'real' profitability (ROA);
- Identify your businesses profit drivers: turnover, gross margins and overheads;
- See your business through your agri-manager's eyes – what's required to obtain a lower interest rate or loan to expand;
- Explore real changes to your business design that will increase 'real' profitability;
- Shared wisdom from coaching/mentoring and like-minded producers who have made changes and improved their profitability.
- Confidence to action important decisions.

Held in the Burra area (location tbc), this course includes three workshop sessions (2.5 days):

- One: **Tues 28 June 2022**, 9am – 5pm and,
- Two: **Wed 29 June 2022**, 9am – 5pm and,
- Three: **Thurs 30 June, 2022** (1/2 day only)

Workshop 1: Learn profitability principles, work through a (real) case study business together turning tax figures to real profit figures. As 'consultant for the day', learn what to do to improve the 'case study' business' profitability.

Workshop 2: You will be coached, using your own taxation financials, to calculate real profitability indicators for your business. (NB: Your figures are not shared in any discussions)

Workshop 3: Experience a real 'business board', both giving and receiving business assistance (and learning in doing both). Go home with 'real' changes to make.

There is a cost of **\$250 per business** (encouraging all family members to attend).

Contact

Jessie White, Project Landscape Officer

Email: jessie.white@sa.gov.au

Phone: 8658 1086 Mob: 0429 151 138



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



Future
Drought
Fund

Upcoming Events Calendar

June		
7th-9th	Science to Practice Forum	sadrighthub@adelaide.edu.au
8th	Livestock Forum—Orroroo	See page 21 or contact Jodie.reseigh@sa.gov.au
15th	UNFS Strategic Board Meeting	admin@unfs.com.au
28th-30th	Northern and Yorke Landscapes Board Better Farm Bu\$ness workshop—Burra area.	See page 22 or contact Jessie.white@sa.gov.au
28th	UNFS Sheep Genetics Workshop	see page 10 or contact rachel@unfs.com.au
30th	UNFS Agrifutures AgTech Workshop - Melrose	See www.unfs.com.au or contact morgan@unfs.com.au
30th	Burra to bird lake—a tour of regenerating grasslands	See www.unfs.com.au or unfs@outlook.com
July		
4th	Chemcert Course—Jamestown	info@chemcert.com.au
6th	Chemcert Course—Orroroo	info@chemcert.com.au
6th	UNFS Operations Committee Meeting	admin@unfs.com.au
14th	UNFS Tools, Technology and Transformation Field Day - Melrose	See www.unfs.com.au or morgan@unfs.com.au
18th-20th	Grain Growers Emerging Ag Conference	See page 19 or visit innovationgeneration.com.au
19th July	Hart Winter Walk	See https://www.hartfieldsite.org.au/pages/events/winter-walk.php
August		
1st	Thriving Women Conference	See http://www.thrivingwomen.com.au/
TBA	“Tools, Technology and Transformation” UNFS Hub Event Series	morgan@unfs.com.au



Upper North Farming Systems

Contact Details 2021/22



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www.unfs.com.au

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