

UNFS UPDATE



Upper North Farming Systems Newsletter

December 2022

A Year to Remember

2022 has certainly been a unique year in the Upper North and for UNFS.

The weather has kept us on our toes...the latest break many have recorded followed by some of the wettest and wildest spring conditions. Drought, floods, frost, flies, weeds, fert and chem shortages and record highs...and covid causing havoc...and yet the people of the region trundle on, adapt and get things done. There is a sentiment of exhaustion across the region and the late harvest, late shearing and need for additional sprays/crutchings having an impact on holiday plans has many feeling a bit flat. So take a moment to recognise that this year has been a challenge, that it is important to take a rest when you need to and to prioritise time with your team, your family and your mates to connect...be it a catch up in person for a cuppa at the driveway, a what's-app group for a bit of banter, or a Sunday lunch in the paddock tradition through-out harvest where you stop and share a meal together. We all want to see harvest 2022 as a safe one so when the time comes for that summer holiday everyone is there to enjoy it...and snore, snore, snore by the beach!

UNFS has also had a bit of a rollercoaster this year. Many events were planned, postponed, re-planned, moved, cancelled and eventually held due to covid and weather impacts. Despite this we're proud of the events that were held, we saw a return of numbers which is promising for the future and the team is currently undergoing some extensive training in extension to ensure that 2023 brings a series of events that you just won't want to miss!

Staff changes have been a significant feature of the year within our team. We farewelled Jade early in the year...but are excited to welcome her back. Jade is taking on the Farming Systems Project Coordinator role. We farewell Morgan this month. Due to budget constraints it was not viable to retain the Engagement Coordinator position at this time. We wish Morgan all the best in the future and we are grateful for the effort she has put in to her role, a highlight has certainly been her delivery of the Tools, Tech and Transformation series and watching her grow in her extension and project management skills.

We welcome Deb Marner to the team as the new Business Manager. Deb joined us in November and is learning the ropes quickly. A full intro of both Deb and Jade is further in the newsletter along with the new staff structure.

Sadly, Kristina is retiring from UNFS at the end of December after joining us in 2018. Kris has been a constant source of positivity and can-do attitude within the team. Thank you for all that you have done for the organisation, and for each of us on staff and in the committee. We have loved working with you and we wish you all the best for the future. May the walks on the beach and the time with Grand-kids...and I'm sure the occasional call up to help with the farm work... bring you happiness!

We have a load of new and exciting activities for 2023 looking at sustainable and profitable farming systems, risk management, heat stress and reproduction in sheep, next gen farmers, sheep tech adoption, resilience as farmers, adapting to variability, better grazing of the hills, profitable pulses in the rotation...and of course many of the projects we've been running this year continue. We do however wrap up the Barley Time of Sowing trials, Soil Pathology work, TTT and Regen Goyders Line. Full results will be in the 2022 Compendium out next year. The very overdue 2021 Compendium will be in your mailboxes any day now...it is finally at the printers. We apologise for the delay...the 6 months of staff shortages really did put the team under the pump this year!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, smooth & profitable harvest and a long rest once harvest is complete.

By Ruth Sommerville, Executive Officer

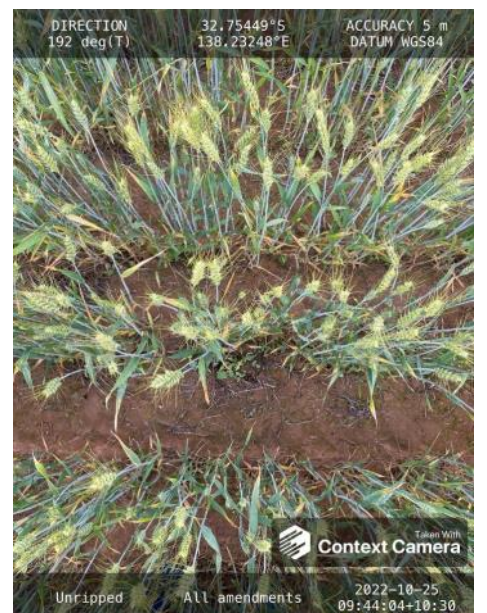
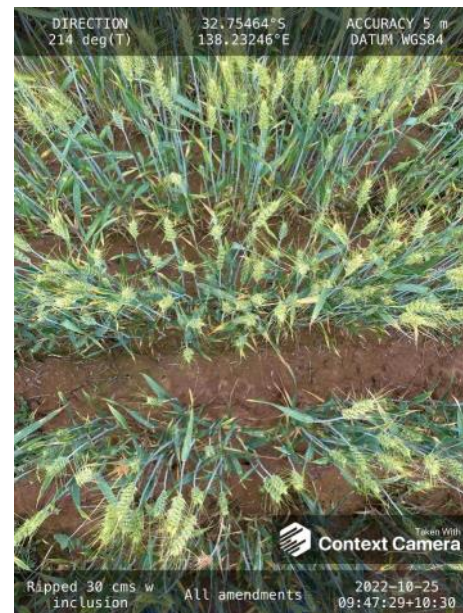
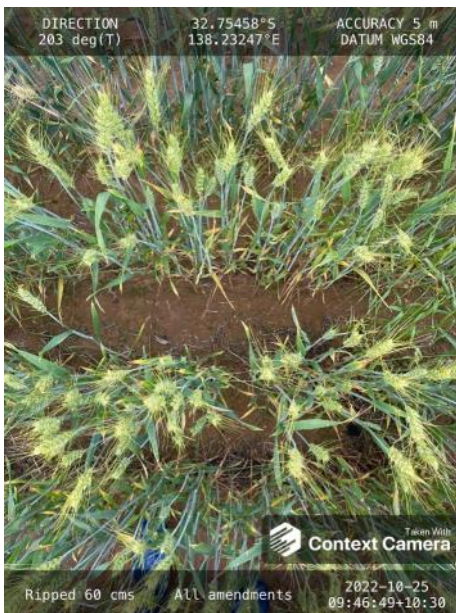
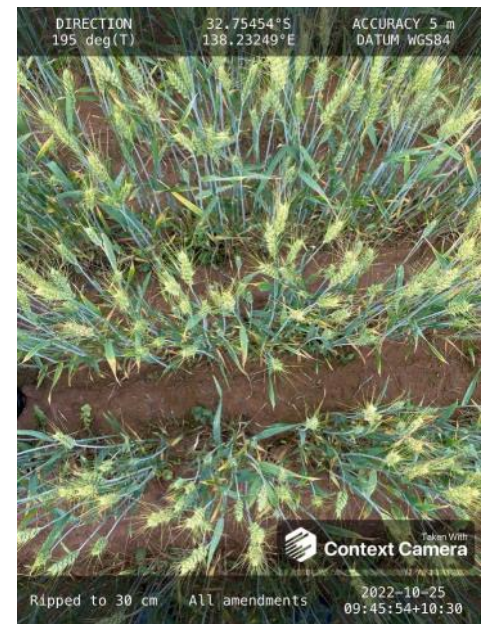
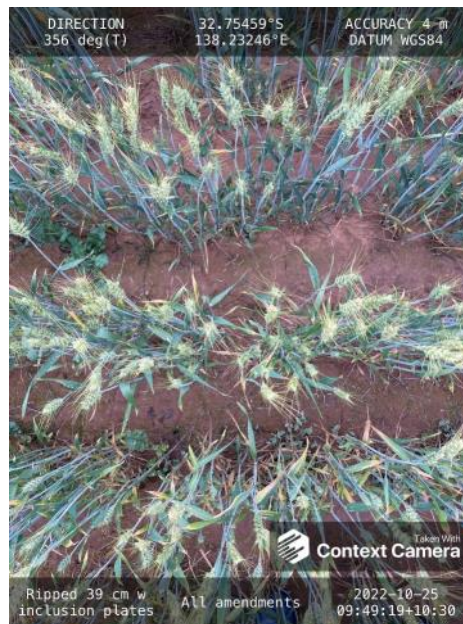
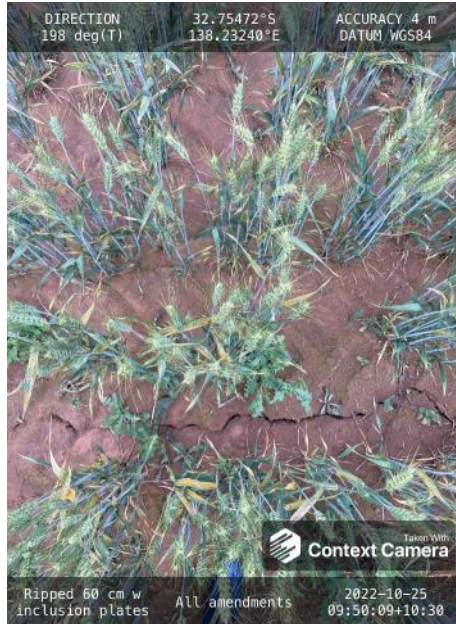
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Trial Update—Building Soil Knowledge

Beth Humphris—Elders

Our deep ripping site, which was established before sowing this year, is progressing well. Differences can easily be observed between the ripping treatments, which are shown in the attached photos. The site will be soil sampled at the end of the growing season next year to assess how each of the amendments (gypsum, lime and compost) have moved through the profile. This site had compaction, salt and pH challenges pre-treatments. Stay tuned for more progress in 2023!



Australian Government

National
Landcare
Programme



Trial Update—Canola Profitability

Steph Lunn—AgXtra

Canola Profitability at Morchard (1/3 sites in the UN), made possible by funding from SAGIT- South Australian Grain Industry Trust. **Yes** this is the same site! First photo was taken on the 17th August , second photo on the 5th September and the last photo was taken on the 6th of October. Some interesting results to come.



2022 Upper North Farming Systems Annual Members Expo – Event Report

By Morgan McCallum— UNFS Engagement Coordinator



The Upper North Farming Systems Annual Members Expo & Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 8th September 2022 at the Booleroo Centre Town Hall. Approximately 70 people attended, comprised of UNFS staff, local farmers, advisors and presenters.

Chairman James Heaslip and Executive Officer Ruth Sommerville commenced the proceedings with an update of the group's events and trial work over the past year, followed by The Annual General Meeting.

Presentations commenced with Tony Lawry from NueRizer. Tony is responsible for Corporate, Governance, Media and Investor Relations at ASX listed NeuRizer Limited (ASX:NRZ). NeuRizer (NRZ) is the company responsible for progressing the NeuRizer Urea Project (NRUP). NRUP is a nationally significant project that will deliver low-cost, high-quality nitrogen-based fertiliser ensuring a secure supply for local and export agriculture markets.

Attendees then broke off into two separate concurrent sessions and heard from either Deb Scammell from Talking Livestock presenting about confinement feeding or Tara Garrard from SARDI speaking on Disease in the Low Rainfall Zone; Septoria and other leaf diseases.

Morning tea (sponsored by MGA Ins/Flinders Machinery & Advantage Grain) provided a chance to network before a presentation from Dale Woolford (Uni SA) on the iFarmWell program. iFarmWell is a free online tool kit to help farmers cope effectively with life's challenges and get the most out of every day, regardless of the circumstances they face. Mark Farrell (CSIRO) followed presenting on the Cover Crop project with a focus on Biomass, Bugs, Disease and Soil Condition.

A fabulous lunch provided by NAB Jamestown preceded the on-farm trial sessions commencing with a soil pit visit with Andrew Harding (SARDI). However, during Andrew's session, the heavens opened up and it was apparent the rain was here to stay. A slight change of plans required and the group moved up to Joe & Jess Koch's shed to do the remaining afternoon talks out of the weather. Jordan Bruce (Trenrove Consulting) presented on the Phosphorous trial and results that they have seen throughout the trial. Beth Humphris (Elders) presented on the Soil Amelioration Case Study and the results from this trial. Dan Vater (AGT) spoke on the NVT trial located north of Booleroo Centre and the wheat varieties present in the trial and gave the group an overall update from AGT. Finally, the group heard from Steph Lunn (AgXtra) and Paul Jenke (Pioneer Seeds) on the UNFS Canola Profitability Trial and the varieties that are planted within the trial.

UNFS would like to thank all attendees, presenters and sponsors that were able to make the day possible and the flexibility of everyone with the challenging weather during the afternoon session.



Upper North Farming Systems Spring Sticky Beak Days

by Morgan McCallum— UNFS Engagement Coordinator



Eastern Sticky Beak Day

The Eastern sticky beak day was held on 15th September in the Jamestown area and was ran in conjunction with the AgXtra Field day. The day commenced mid morning at the Syngenta Learning Centre located at the Jamestown race course. The Syngenta team gave an overview of trial work conducted during 2022. Syngenta has recently launched a number of Learning Centres across Australia to showcase new and upcoming crop protection technology and innovation. The Syngenta Learning Centres are a chance for agronomists and farmers to see first-hand the efficacy of a number of products, in some instances, before they even hit the market. After some networking with attendees, Beth Humphris presented the findings from the UNFS Dryland Legume Pasture Systems project located at Canowie belt. The day finished with a visit by attendees to the Caltowie MLA producer demonstration pasture site located at Alison Henderson's farm with an overview of the project and results from that project site.

Northern Sticky Beak Day

The Northern sticky beak day was held the following week on 20th September. Commencing at Black Rock, attendees visited a medic and lucerne varieties trial, hearing from David Pack & Alan Humphris (SARDI) presenting information on each variety planted at the trial site. Attendees travelled to the UNFS Canola Profitability trial located in Morchard. This site has made a significant comeback with the recent September rains and provided attendees with the opportunity to discuss the varieties planted. Lastly, attendees travelled to the MLA producer demonstration site located in Pekina. This 'paddock scale' trial provided an opportunity to gain some insight into pasture and cropping mixes for grazing.

Upper North Farming Systems would like to thank everyone who was involved in making the crop walks possible and a huge thank you to the landholders that met us at each site and allowed us to have a sticky beak of the trials.



Western - Nelshaby Ag Bureau Sticky Beak Day

By Barry Mudge

Around 30 people attended the annual Nelshaby Ag Bureau Sticky beak Day bus trip around the district on Friday, September 2nd 2022.

First stop was at Mambray Creek looking at Crown Rot demonstration trials on Jonno and Barry Mudge's farm. This trial is aimed at evaluating the benefit of a two year break from cereals in reducing crown rot inoculation levels. Also at the site was a white peg trial which includes Victrato, a new seed treatment from Syngenta which targets nematodes and soil borne fungus diseases. Early indications were that the seed treatment was having a significant beneficial effect. Margaret Evans was on site and gave a talk on crown rot control.

The tour then moved to Rob, Brad and Matt Dennis's farm at Baroota where Brad talked on their experience using the spot spraying Weedit system. He noted that the system was working well, although still had some issues- these included some wheel tracking issues and concerns with chemical residues in high dose situations. But the machine was still a vital weapon in the pursuit of zero tolerance summer weed control.

We then looked at a nearby vetch/barley crop of Barry Mudge's which Neville Ferme was contract cutting for hay. Neville gave a talk on recent developments with hay production.

Next stop was Nelshaby where we inspected Seth Roberts's disc seeder, which was a modified Flexicoil ST820 with disc assembly on the bottom.

We then inspected two trials being conducted using bureau funds by Stefan Schmitt on Philip, Leighton and Byron Johns's property. The first trial was on a saline soils site and used surface spread amendments (gypsum, straw and sand) to see if the saline difficulties could be overcome. Different crops were also being trialled. The crops here were generally very poor which reflected the very dry period experienced mid-season. While we were inspecting this site, the BBQ was firing and we had a very pleasant lunch sponsored by Viterra.

The second trial of Stefan's was looking at three corner jack control in lentils. This is a major problem in the district. Some promising results seem likely from this trial. Further work needs to be done on this issue.

The final visit for the day was to Brendon Johns's farm near Warnertown. Penny Roberts and Dylan Bruce ran us through the SARDI pulse trials on this site. Of keen interest is the very early pulse sowing trials which have been showing substantial yield advantage by sowing as early as the start of April. This year will be an interesting comparison given the good spring being experienced.

We also looked at the UNFS/SAGIT canola trial.

An excellent day was had by all.



Nelshaby Ag Bureau members inspecting Barley/Vetch hay crop

Southern Sticky Beak Day —Using Satellite Imagery for Late Season Crop Management Decisions

By Jess Koch, Breezy Hill PA Services

On the 18th October, the 'Using Satellite Imagery for Late Season Crop Management Decisions' trial site visit was held north of Melrose and Booleroo. This Crop Walk was part of two separate projects – the MLA Pasture Demonstration Site and the SA Drought Hub project 'Utilising satellite imagery in the growing season to inform adaptive management'.

Site 1 - MLA Producer Demonstration site: Improving Pasture Management Systems

The afternoon kicked off with a visit to one of the MLA funded producer demonstration sites located on Kendrick McCallum's farm in Melrose. Attendees were given a run through of the trial site, what the aims were of the project and some results that have been seen so far. Jess Koch then gave a run down on the satellite imagery that was available for the site showing the differences between rainfall and also graze events.

Site 2 – David and Chloe Clarke – Booleroo Centre

The second demonstration site was at Perroomba, north west of Booleroo Centre in block called Jacka's. The purpose of this site was to demonstrate how satellite imagery could be analyzed alongside other data layers such as yield data to help create a strategic soil sampling strategy. Using the grower's knowledge of the field, its management history and the yield limiting factors he has documented, we were able to suggest where to strategically soil core with the intention of using the results to characterize the field into 2-3 management zones for potential variable rate management.

Site 3 – Joe and Jessica Koch – Willowie

The third demonstration site was one of the Firestik Frost Demonstration Site's. This is one of several sites, sprayed with the product, so we can better understand it's role in the prevention of frost (and other uses such as pod shatter in canola), through the suppression of ice nucleating bacteria. Michael Eyre's gave an overview on the chemistry of the product and what we learnt in the trials in the Upper North and further afield in 2021. This field at 'Jacobs', Willowie, along with several fields of Todd Orrock's fields at Murray town will be assessed through the analysis of plant samples, and the yield and protein data that is collected from the harvesters.



Event Report—Orroroo Hub Event

By Rachel Trengove—Projects Officer

About 20 Orroroo Hub members gathered together at the Orroroo Footy Clubrooms for a demonstration of the BreedElite Smartdrafter & software, followed by drinks and a BBQ.

Many thanks to Tom Kuerschner for organising the afternoon.

Jonathan Byerlee, Wyndhurst Merino Stud, kindly transported his rams into town as well as his portable yards, smartdrafter and fleece weighing equipment to demonstrate the use of EID tags for drafting and data collection. Wyndhurst have had SRS sheep since 2007 after they “ticked all the boxes” at a field day they attended. The stud flock started with two dispersal sales in NSW and all the classing’s were done visually. Years down the track, Jonathan decided he needed data to back up the decisions being made for his flock. He was happy with fertility up around 125% to 130% in a good year and decided to do wool testing and fleece weights and cull on these factors as well as conducting DNA flock profiling. Jonathan says the BreedElite technology has enabled them to balance up the crucial factors for their business; fleece weights, muscle and fertility for more informed decision making.

Tim Johnsson, founder and owner of BreedElite joined us on the day. Tim grew up on KI and has a background in sheep and sheep genetics. He combined this with a mechanical engineering degree, learned coding and started the concept of BreedElite with his father. He explained the natural evolution of farmers was towards an automated system and this is the basis of BreedElite. We start simple with a notepad and pen recording mob numbers, paddocks and treatments, then this gets too complicated and we start using a spreadsheet of some sort to track data. When this gets a little messy, we look to more specialized software fit for purpose like EID tags and a stick reader. The autodrafter is the last element that brings it together to utilize the data to draft and this is where labour efficiency gains are made. In most commercial operations in the past few years reproductive performance is what farmers have been focusing on with high meat prices by matching pregnancy scanning results and wet/dry status at lamb marking against the ewe. Tim’s main message for the day was that profitability doesn’t come from collecting data but does come from the decisions made as a result of the data collected.



Joe Szakacs MP
Minister for Emergency Services

Thursday, 10 November 2022

Harvest Code agreement reached

South Australian grain producers will be able to use either the Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) or the new Fire Behaviour Index (FBI) under the Harvest Code of Practice during this harvest, after an agreement was reached between Grain Producers SA (GPSA), the State Government and SA Country Fire Service (SACFS).

The new FBI was introduced on September 1, as part of the new Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS), which changes the calculation methodology and key cut off value for grain harvest to cease at an FBI 40, where previously the index and cut off value was stipulated as a GFDI 35.

SA CFS Chief Officer Brett Loughlin said it is important to note, that while the AFDRS includes significant new information regarding a range of different vegetation types, the data informing decision making by grain producers whether to harvest or not due to weather conditions remains relatively consistent.

GPSA Chief Executive Officer Brad Perry said it was pleasing to see a common-sense approach is being taken this harvest with grain producers still able to use the GFDI of 35.

For grain producers using the new FBI, SACFS has made available an online fire behaviour calculator – AURORA. The calculator can be found on the CFS website and once installed can be adjusted from 10 metres to two metres for guidance on a decision to cease harvesting.

For further information please visit <https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/plan-prepare/business-farms/farm-fire-safety-prevention/#grain>

Quotes attributable to Joe Szakacs

I'm thankful for the strong commitment of GPSA to promote and support safe harvesting practices.

It is important that all grain producers are following the guidelines of either the GFDI or FBI accurately.

Media contact: Patrick James 0437 354 677

premier.sa.gov.au

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Fire danger ratings have changed.

KNOWING THE FIRE DANGER RATING MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE

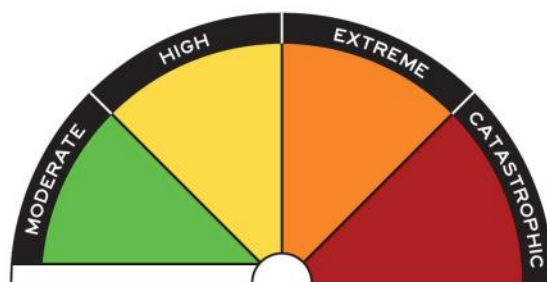
Fire Danger Ratings are now simpler and easier to understand. By using the latest science and technology, they provide a more clear and accurate rating to save properties and lives.

The Fire Danger Ratings give you an indication of the consequences of a fire, if a fire was to start.

The higher the rating is, the more dangerous the conditions will be.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Fire Danger Ratings have four levels, which are:



MODERATE

Plan and prepare.

Most fires can be controlled

- Stay up to date and be ready to act if there is a fire.

HIGH

Be ready to act.

Fires can be dangerous.

- There's a heightened risk. Be alert for fires in your area.
- Decide what you will do if a fire starts.
- If a fire starts, your life and property may be at risk.
- The safest option is to avoid bushfire risk areas.

EXTREME

Take action now to protect your life and property.

Fires will spread quickly and be extremely dangerous

- These are dangerous fire conditions.
- Check your bushfire plan and that your property is fire ready.
- If a fire starts, take immediate action. If you and your property are not prepared to the highest level, go to a safer location well before the fire impacts.
- Reconsider travel through bushfire risk areas.

CATASTROPHIC

For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas.

If a fire starts and takes hold, lives are likely to be lost.

- These are the most dangerous conditions for a fire.
- Your life may depend on the decisions you make, even before there is a fire.
- Stay safe by going to a safer location early in the morning or the night before.
- Homes cannot withstand fires in these conditions. You may not be able to leave and help may not be available.

For more information visit cfs.sa.gov.au/ratings



Understanding fire danger ratings



Fire Danger Ratings describe the consequences of a fire if one was to start. They do not indicate the chance of a fire occurring, although this is a common misconception.



Fire Danger Ratings are declared for a Fire Area. These are based on local government areas. You can find your Fire Area at cfs.sa.gov.au/ratings



Ratings are calculated using a combination of weather forecasting and information about vegetation that could fuel a fire.



During harvest season, Harvest Safety Alerts may be issued for areas at High and above.



Total Fire Bans will typically apply at Extreme and above.



When the fire danger reaches High, permits may be suspended. Check any conditions on your fire permit.



You can use the Fire Danger Ratings as a trigger for action in your bushfire survival plan.

YOU CAN FIND OUT THE FIRE DANGER RATING FOR YOUR AREA BY:

- 🔥 By visiting the CFS website at cfs.sa.gov.au/ratings
- 🔥 Listening to your local news
- 🔥 Checking Alert SA
- 🔥 Calling the Information Hotline on 1800 362 361

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CFS website **cfs.sa.gov.au**

Information Hotline **1800 362 361**

Facebook **SA Country Fire Service** and **CFSUpdates**

Twitter follow **@cfstalk** and **@cfsalerts**

Local ABC radio, FIVEaa, or one of our other Emergency Broadcast Partners

Alert SA

HOW TO AVOID BEING A BRIGHT SPARK

Five steps to reduce harvester fire risk



GRAIN PRODUCERS SA
The voice of South Australian growers

PREPARE

It is recommended to establish a minimum 4-metre fuel break around perimeters of crops or paddocks to be harvested, or establish a series of strategic breaks around groups of paddocks.



Review fire safety plans for each farm. Ensure all staff are trained.

Establish a fire prevention and emergency response strategy for all staff, contractors and machinery operators.

MAINTAIN

Adopt a regular maintenance program before and during harvest, in particular wearing parts and bearings. Keep records.



All operators of harvesting equipment should be bushfire ready by having appropriate firefighting clothing and a plan for the protection of themselves, their equipment and the community.

MONITOR

Monitor weather conditions consistently, looking for extremely hot weather and wind.



If conditions deteriorate, increase machinery maintenance and vigilance and seek information on harvest bans. Monitor media.

If you have any doubts about the harvest conditions, talk to your local SA Country Fire Service (CFS) group officer or Brigade Captain as it is important to keep the communications open between grain producers and the CFS.

BE SAFE

It is a legislated requirement that, when using a stationary engine to auger grain, a person who is able to control the engine must be present when it is in use, or an area of at least 4m around must be cleared.



It is legislated that producers must carry a shovel or rake, portable water spray, and ensure engine and exhaust systems comply with regulations.

If it's too hot or windy and you think there's a fire risk, stop harvesting.

Ensure crop residues on the machine are kept to an absolute minimum, particularly on engines, exhausts and brakes. Reduce any potential build up of static electricity through harvest. Have immediate access to a UHF or mobile phone.

Have a fire-fighting unit in the paddock with at least 250L of water.

COMMUNICATE

Making a decision to stop in-paddock operations?

Talk to your neighbours and let them know.

Make the call as communities and protect your farm assets and your neighbour's.



Regularly check the SA Country Fire Service website for updates.

Visit: www.grainproducerssa.com.au



UNFS Weather Station Network - Finding it and how to use it for the FDI

Agbyte has installed weather station networks across many sites throughout South Australia. UNFS obtained a grant from **SAFECOM** enabling installation of a network across our membership area.

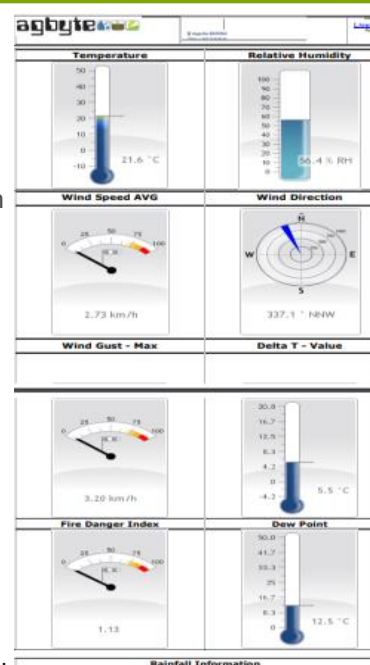
Access to the Weather Stations and Live Data feed is available via a Link from the UNFS website... <https://unfs.com.au/unfs-soil-moisture-weather-monitoring-station/>

You can view either the map.....select the pin on the map closest to your location and follow the prompts to gain access to the relevant page (as pictured), or select from the list of weather stations. Scroll the page until you see the Fire Danger Index panel. Live Data is refreshed every 15 minutes.

Other data is also available including:

Wind speed, wind direction, rainfall, Dew Point, Delta T, Spray conditions (based on wind speed & inversion risk) etc.

Disclaimer: The UNFS Automatic Weather Station Network is a data provision service. It is not an advisory service. All decisions made using the information provided through this service are the responsibility of the user. UNFS takes no responsibility for any outcomes of use of this data. All weather sensitive activities should be undertaken with point of activity weather condition verification.



Government of South Australia
South Australian Fire and
Emergency Services Commission

Welcome to our new Business Manager.....

Originally from Whyalla, I have lived, worked and volunteered in the Upper North region of South Australia for the majority of my adult life. After working in Adelaide for 15 years, my husband and I eventually returned to the family farm in Wirrabara 17 years ago to raise our family in a country environment.

I have over 40 years' experience in administration and finance working in a variety of industries and I'm delighted to be now working with Upper North Farming Systems.

My hobbies include fermenting vegies, yoga, general exercise and golf, golf and golf.

Welcome aboard Deb!!



It's not everyday the Chairperson gets married— Congratulations to James & Kara Heaslip on their recent wedding. They've set a trend as we wish Jade Rose & Stefan Schmitt all the best for their upcoming wedding in January 2023.

Welcome back Jade Rose Our Farming Systems Project Coordinator

"Hi I'm Jade. You may already know this story, but for those that don't.....

I'm an early career researcher, going into my seventh year working in agriculture. I'm incredibly passionate about applied research and communicating research that improves the sustainability, viability and profitability of farm businesses. I am currently nearing the end of my PhD with Adelaide University, looking into the Nitrogen cycle and effect on microbial communities of above and below-ground pulse residues in mixed cropping systems in South Australia. My main interests include plant pathology, soil science, general agronomy and phenology and breeding. However, I'm always keen to learn more from those around me and love having a chat to anyone.

It is a fabulous time to be in Ag and I can only say my enthusiasm for this industry continues to increase, the more I learn. I really look forward to the future of the Upper North Farming Systems group and am excited to keep learning about the diverse regions and be a part of the communities around. I hope to continue the fantastic work this group has achieved.

When I'm not working in agriculture, you can find me trying to grow every variety of vegetable and fruit known to man, landscaping or looking at my lawn. I also enjoy spending time with my best canine pal, Winston or getting farm and agronomy lessons from my beloved partner Stefan."



CONSULTATION UNDERWAY TO FIND BEST SOLUTION FOR INDIVIDUAL SHEEP AND GOAT TRACEABILITY FOR SA



Work through Livestock SA's whole-of-industry Sheep and Goat Traceability Steering Committee has moved into its next phase as industry consultation on the mandatory implementation of national individual identification for sheep and goats gets underway.

Livestock SA President Joe Keynes said the Steering Committee had completed two scoping meetings and has now met with the consultant appointed to undertake the business case, ACIL Allen, to ensure the industry consultation process gathers the right information.

"ACIL Allen will engage with sheep and goat producers, agents, accumulators, feedlots, processors, and saleyards to ensure the issues that will be encountered by different groups are identified, considered and factored into any changes to current sheep and goat traceability processes. "For some in the supply chain it will be a relatively simple change in tag type or scanning process, while for others such as saleyards we expect there to be more substantial infrastructure costs incurred."

"The Steering Committee and Livestock SA have heard producers' concerns regarding exemptions for lambs that are vendor bred direct to slaughter, and rangelands goats and we are working through each of these scenarios for our state. "We have also heard there will be additional costs through the supply chain, so we need to look for the best way to deal with these costs because ultimately the cost of not meeting national traceability standards is a greater risk to the future profitability, market access and emergency animal preparedness for our industry. "While this work needs to fit into a nationally harmonized system, we are focused on making sure any overarching national traceability recommendations suit our state's supply chain.

"We need as many people as possible from the supply chain that will be impacted to complete this survey," said Mr Keynes. You can complete the survey via the link or by visiting the Sheep and Goat Traceability page on the Livestock SA website. Background The ability to trace individual sheep and goats through the supply chain is critical to maintain the product integrity, market advantages and emergency disease response capability for the livestock industry. The current visual mob-based system has worked effectively in the past, but improvements are now needed.

To address these concerns, in July 2022 national, state and territory agriculture ministers agreed to work with industry towards mandatory implementation of national individual identification for sheep and goats in each jurisdiction by 1st January 2025. Livestock SA is leading a project into the implementation of the mandatory electronic identification (eID) of sheep and goats.

The project is funded by the Sheep Industry Fund and the Department of Primary Industries and Regions SA

Stubble Quail Survey - Farmer Citizen Science

A unique opportunity to participate in a survey from your header cab. Stubble Quail is something many of us are familiar with but there is surprisingly little known about their abundance or distribution. This survey looks to address that for the second year, with last years results truly stunning the ecologists (available if you'd like to read). This data will be used to guide sustainable harvest limits across the state. A simple monitoring of the quails from the cab of the header...do one paddock or do them all!

Explanatory Notes:

Locality

Name of nearest town or area that the paddock is situated.

GPS Coordinates – Please use datum WGS 1984. These details will only be used to aid analysis and will not be shared.

Crop Type

This will enable comparison of data with similar and other crop types.

Total Paddock Size (Ha)

This is very important data for the calculation of quail density not just in the counter's paddocks but all others. If this is unknown it can be worked out using Google Earth by overlaying an area polygon over the location of the paddock. In need seek assistance by contacting Matthew Godson.

Counters Name/Contact Phone Number

These details are important so the counter can be identified and contactable in case further data collections or data queries need to be made.

Total Quail Counted

This is the total number of quail tallied that were seen flushing out of crops and flying/running away from unharvested crop. It is important not to count quail that flush and then land back in unharvested crops that then may be accidentally recounted on a future pass.



Citizen Science Project

Counting Stubble Quail During Harvest Operations



Aim

To detect the presence and estimate the abundance of Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*)

Method

Please count the number of birds flushed (either flying or running) while harvesting the crop. To prevent double counting of birds please don't count birds that land back in crop you are yet to harvest

Data Collection and Reporting

We recommend using a notebook or tally counter to record each flushing. Once the paddock has been completely harvested, please tally up the count and record in the areas below along with the other information requested. If the paddock is harvested over more than one day, please record each day separately and make a note indicating 'same paddock' next to 'GPS coordinates' heading. Please return the completed forms as soon as possible to SSAA National's Wildlife Biologist Matthew Godson via email wildlife@ssaa.org.au or Text photo of the form to 0448 887 079.

Date: _____	Crop Type: _____
Locality: _____	Counters Name: _____
GPS Coordinates: _____	Contact Number: _____
Total Paddock Size (Ha): _____	Total Quail Counted: _____

Date: _____	Crop Type: _____
Locality: _____	Counters Name: _____
GPS Coordinates: _____	Contact Number: _____
Total Paddock Size (Ha): _____	Total Quail Counted: _____

Date: _____	Crop Type: _____
Locality: _____	Counters Name: _____
GPS Coordinates: _____	Contact Number: _____
Total Paddock Size (Ha): _____	Total Quail Counted: _____

Date: _____	Crop Type: _____
Locality: _____	Counters Name: _____
GPS Coordinates: _____	Contact Number: _____
Total Paddock Size (Ha): _____	Total Quail Counted: _____

Date: _____	Crop Type: _____
Locality: _____	Counters Name: _____
GPS Coordinates: _____	Contact Number: _____
Total Paddock Size (Ha): _____	Total Quail Counted: _____

Are you a university student who is passionate about the future of Australian rural industries?

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**GRAIN
PRODUCERS SA**
The voice of South Australian growers

Media Release

Friday 28 October 2022

GPSA launches new awareness campaign - 'Don't Be a Bright Spark'

Grain Producers SA (GPSA) has today launched a new awareness campaign ahead of the coming grain harvest with the biggest build-up of vegetation in South Australian cropping regions in more than five years creating a heightened fire risk.

GPSA Chief Executive Officer Brad Perry said grain producers should be aware of their responsibilities to reduce the threat of fire this harvest.

"Our 'Don't Be a Bright Spark' awareness campaign is aimed at putting the emphasis on fire prevention in grain producers' hands," said Mr Perry.

"If it's too hot or too windy or the conditions feel dangerous to harvest in, we are saying, follow the steps in our campaign to prepare, maintain, monitor, be safe and communicate.

"If you have any doubts about harvesting on a day where the weather is challenging, speak to your neighbouring farmers and community and see whether others are harvesting too. You could even use social media platforms to create online groups to communicate about harvesting conditions.

"If grain producers have any doubts about the harvest conditions, we would encourage them to talk to their local SA Country Fire Service (CFS) group officer or Brigade Captain as it is important to keep the communications open between grain producers and the CFS.

"Don't Be a Bright Spark – prepare, maintain, monitor, be safe and communicate - is a simple but important message that builds on our education initiatives from previous years."

Mr Perry said the persistent rain across the state has created a significant build-up of vegetation around cropping areas.

"With so much vegetation growing on roadside verges and in scrub and pasture adjacent to cropping, the fire danger threat this harvest is high," said Mr Perry.

"Bushfires and grass fires can undo years of soil conservation and biodiversity improvements in the blink of an eye, so we are encouraging grain producers to be as prepared as possible this coming harvest.

"Every day before you harvest, check the weather forecast, speak to neighbouring farmers about the conditions and check your machinery prior to and during harvest.

"Preparation includes establishing fire breaks across the property or in paddocks and with so much vegetation growth this year, fire breaks really need to be closely looked at.



Harvesting in wet paddocks - A Cautionary Tale

Warning issued for growers harvesting wet paddocks

Article from GRDC Groundcover 7 November 2022

Growers must take extra precautions before and during crop harvesting on wet paddocks this year, cautions the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC). Exceptional rainfall across southern and eastern Australia means many growers will be faced with harvesting crops in very wet conditions.

Extension specialist and Deputy Chair of the GRDC Southern Panel Pru Cook says it's really important for growers and harvest workers to look after themselves this harvest.

"Harvest will be a long, drawn-out process that will present a range of physical and mental challenges for growers and harvest workers," says Ms Cook.

"We want to remind everyone involved in harvest operations this year to take their time to prepare, understand the risks and how to reduce them, and to look out for each other."

GRDC has invested in research by the [Rural Safety and Health Alliance](#) that resulted in the publication [Work, Health & Safety \(WHS\) Communications Guidelines](#) that showed the influential role of peers in helping to communicate safety measures.

Professional harvest contractor Rod Gribble from Yenda, NSW, says one potentially fatal risk of harvesting in wet conditions is retrieving bogged headers.

"We used to use chains or cables to pull out bogged headers," says Mr Gribble.

"I had the chain break once and it came hurtling back at me. It hit the back of the tractor and was only a metre away from breaking the window and taking me out."

He now uses snatch straps to pull out equipment as they have more give in them and are less likely to break and do damage, but caution is still required.

"People have got to be patient," says Mr Gribble.

"Someone will get bogged, and when you do, just stop.

"Remember that a header might weigh 25-30 tonnes, but you're probably going to bog it when it's got a fully loaded grain tank.

"The effort to pull out a loaded header is much greater – they are a dead weight stuck in the ground.

"Unload the grain first, take your time and clear the mud away from all the tires with a shovel or excavator."

Mr Gribble emphasised that growers should also review the operator's manual for their machinery and learn the specific guidance for retrieving equipment should it get bogged.

Advice may vary and knowing the safest way to deal with specific equipment in advance – such as the recommended attachment points for snatch straps – is essential.

After clearing away the mud, Mr Gribble advises growers to take it easy pulling it out.

"Don't tear off at 15km/hour, just take it slow and steady – even snatch straps can break and D rings can go flying.

"You've also got to be aware of the strap and D shackles' rating when pulling out gear.

"People have died from trying to retrieve bogged equipment. You can get a new header, you can't get a new head. Know when to walk away."

[AgHealth Australia reports](#) that tractors are the leading cause of unintentional deaths on farms responsible for 251 fatalities between 2001 and 2020.

GRDC is producing a series of articles for [GroundCover magazine](#) showcasing opportunities for growers to learn from each other about workplace health and safety. Local agricultural equipment traders and others are also holding field days around the country to help prepare growers and share advice on recovering bogged machinery. Growers can look out for workshops in their area or simply drop in and have a chat to their machinery expert to seek safety advice.



The complete article is available [here](#)

Code of Practice

Summer Weed Control

Spray drift from summer weed control is a serious threat to sensitive crops.

Ongoing spray drift damage risks additional regulatory restrictions to important summer herbicide products.

Objective

To provide a standard for the safe and effective application of herbicides for summer weed control.

To minimise the risk of off-target damage to grapevines and other susceptible plants from droplet and vapour drift of herbicides.

Recognising a surface temperature inversion is critical

Do not apply summer herbicides in inversion conditions. These conditions exist most evenings one to two hours before sunset and persist until one to two hours after sunrise. If temperature inversion conditions develop while spraying, spraying operations must cease.

A surface inversion is likely to be present if:

- mist, fog, dew or a frost have occurred
- smoke or dust hangs in the air and moves sideways, just above the ground surface
- cumulus clouds that have built up during the day collapse towards evening

- wind speed is constantly less than 11km/hr in the evening and overnight
- cool off-slope breezes develop during the evening and overnight
- distant sounds become clearer and easier to hear
- aromas become more distinct during the evening than during the day.*

Wind speed and direction

Recording weather details is a legal requirement for all Group I herbicides in South Australia and for other summer herbicide products if required by their label direction.

Spray when the wind is blowing away from any nearby susceptible plants/crops. Do not spray when there is little or no wind.

Be aware that sea breezes can move chemicals many kilometres from their source and then deposit them directly into inland regions or into inversion layers that are forming, or have already formed inland.

Read the label: 2,4-D has mandatory label instructions to apply between 3 and 15km/hr wind speed. For all other products apply as per label instructions.

Monitoring and record keeping

Monitor and record on-site weather conditions (wind speed, wind direction, temperature and relative humidity) at the start and finish of spraying and at least for every load during spraying. It is a legal requirement to keep records in accordance with label instructions



and for all Group I herbicides in South Australia.

Examples templates and information:
pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/rural_chemicals

Equipment and products

Use nozzle types and operating pressures that maintain a very coarse spray quality, or larger. An extremely coarse spray quality is recommended where a glyphosate, MCPA or 2,4-D product is use.

For 2,4-D it is a legal requirement that spray quality must be very coarse or larger. Label directions for 2,4-D now recommend extremely coarse or larger spray quality for the period 1 October to 15 April.

With other products, when using smaller than extremely coarse spray quality select adjuvants that do not increase the drift potential, such as LI 700 Surfactant or similar emulsion adjuvant.

It is critical to get the entire combination of droplet size, boom height and travel speed right. Even small changes in any or all of these elements can significantly increase the number of fine droplets produced and the subsequent spray drift risk.

Being Weed Smart for 2023 - Summer weed control to preserve moisture for 2023 with La Nina fading and a potential for El Nino building.

By Jade Rose

In the face of higher herbicide costs this season, those who normally spray summer weeds may be wondering if the benefit still outweighs the cost?

The answer is yes, summer spraying preserves soil nitrogen, which is also very expensive currently, paired with the current outlook for high grain prices.

During summer, the top foot of soil will dry out regardless of how much stubble is on the surface, however, transpiration from summer weeds is the only mechanism that removes water from below 30cm. Summer weeds are shown to affect soil moisture content to a depth of at least 1.2m, for every millimetre of moisture that weed growth affects, mineral N levels are reduced by over 0.5 kg N/ha. If we predict to have 50 mm of summer rainfall, by spraying summer weeds, we are able to store around one-third, or 17mm for the following seasons crop use (WeedSmart, 2022).

Managing farming country in the months before sowing can be significant in increasing water use-efficiency (WUE), more so than in-crop management. In drier areas of the country, allowing accumulation of water in the soil by controlling weeds allows the following crop a much better chance at success. This water is often stored deeper in the soil profile; therefore, the water can be used later in the season by the crop which helps maintain grain number and yield.

Strategies that increase storage of fallow rainfall and soil capture are particularly high impact and can improve crop reliability and yield. The return on investment is high when weeds are managed in summer fallow. Removing the 'green bridge' through summer weed control can also decrease the weed vectored disease and pest burden. If weeds are present over summer, they can harbour diseases such as rusts (as well as on volunteer cereals) which could increase disease outbreaks in the next season.

Weeds can also cause blockages and interference with machinery at sowing which can affect sowing consistency, crop growth rate at emergence and sowing depth. A successful crop starts before sowing, so make sure to think about summer weed management to allow the best season you can in 2023.

Some key resources include:

Summer Fallow Weed Management Guide

Click [Here](#)

The WeedSmart Big 6 are a set of chemicals, mechanical and cultural tactics to help growers control crop weeds and fight herbicide resistance. The Big 6 include:

1. Rotate crops and pastures
2. Increase crop competition
3. Mix and rotate herbicides
4. Double knock to preserve glyphosate
5. Stop weed seed set
6. Implement harvest weed seed control

For more information click [here](#)

Summer livestock management after a wet spring

By Rachel Trengove

Worms:

Unseasonably wet conditions across much of South Australia are causing an increased worm burden in livestock. If left untreated, worms will affect your production by competing with the host for nourishment, and depriving the host of essential protein. Proactive prevention is best and a strategic summer drenching program is worth considering.

There are WormBoss Drench Decision Guides tailored for every sheep production region that can assist your decision on whether to drench now, whether to use a persistent drench and when to WormTest again. Access the WormBoss Drench Decisions Guides [here](#) They are very simple and quick to use.

Flystrike:

Recent rainfall and warm temperatures have brought with them an increased risk of fly strike in sheep. Monitoring for fly activity during the season is essential. Flocks may require additional treatment or management as flies can emerge from the soil with a sudden change to preferable weather conditions.

Ryegrass Toxicity:

Annual Ryegrass Toxicity (ARGT) has been a significant issue in some districts in the past. Despite a decline in the incidence, producers should not be complacent and should monitor stock carefully when they are being placed in 'fresh' paddocks &/or stubbles that may contain ryegrass.

Lupinosis:

Lupin stubble and hay is a valued feed for sheep and lambs. However, a condition called Lupinosis can be an issue. Lupinosis is caused by a fungus (phomopsis) that produces a toxin affecting both the seed, pod and the stalks of lupin crops, triggered by wet and humid conditions. Sheep affected can show signs within a couple of days or over a couple of weeks

Grazing hail damaged crops:

In many situations failed crops provide high quality feed as a result of good soluble carbohydrate levels. However high levels of grain with inadequate fibre can lead to acidosis (or grain poisoning).

Moldy hay:

Adverse weather conditions during or after baling can allow mold growth and may pose contamination risk. Mold and yeast can be tested in hay to avoid risk of feeding affected hay.

Summer weed toxicity:

A wet summer can result in above average summer weed populations and potentially result in livestock deaths. While some summer weeds can provide quality feed, especially when no other green feed is available, some can create toxicity issues. Many toxic weeds are unpalatable to livestock and often will only be consumed in situations where livestock are hungry and have nothing else to eat.

For References:

AWI – www.awi.org

Elders – eldersrural.com.au

Sheep connect SA – www.sheepconnectsa.com.au

Daniel Schuppan, Nutrien, Jamestown



**GRAIN
PRODUCERS SA**
The voice of South Australian growers

Media Release

Monday 7 November 2022

GPSA's Harvest 100 playlist released as headers start up

Almost 1000 songs have been submitted to Grain Producers SA's (GPSA) inaugural Harvest 100 with an all-time Australian rock classic taking out number one spot – *Driving Wheels* by Jimmy Barnes.

Over 60 per cent of the more than 900 song submissions came from grain producers with grain supply chain participants, other agricultural industries, media and political identities, and community members also participating.

GPSA Chief Executive Officer Brad Perry said it was fantastic to see so many grain producers and others engaged in the Harvest 100.

"We received so many song submissions that we've been able to pull together a 250-song playlist for the inaugural Harvest 100 which will provide hours of listening as grain producers start up the headers," said Mr Perry.

"Not only did we receive an impressive amount of song submissions through the Harvest 100, but it also created many discussions which act as a reminder to grain producers about the importance of mental health and wellbeing and talking to their fellow growers during harvest.

"With our grain producers spending significant amounts of time sitting on machinery this harvest, the Harvest 100 is an initiative aimed at creating a community knowing that many other growers across the state are listening to the same playlist.

"The final 250 playlist is a big mix of quirky tunes, country music, hits from decades past and some of the latest songs frequenting the airwaves."

The Top 10 songs of the Harvest 100:

1. **Driving Wheels – Jimmy Barnes**
2. International Harvester – Craig Morgan
3. Thunderstruck – AC/DC
4. Harvest Time – Luke Bryan
5. Thank God I'm a Country Boy – John Denver
6. God's Country – Blake Shelton
7. Working Class Man – Jimmy Barnes
8. Have You Ever Seen the Rain – Creedence Clearwater Revival
9. Lights on the Hill – Slim Dusty
10. Boys from the Bush – Lee Kernaghan

To download the Harvest 100 playlist, visit: <https://grainproducerssa.com.au/project/harvest-100-playlist/>

For interviews, contact Brad Perry, GPSA CEO, on 0418 619 907

Be aware of the changes to the 2,4D label

Changes to 2,4-D label instructions are being highlighted ahead of potentially large summer weed control programs resulting from a wetter-than-normal spring and summer.

GRDC chemical regulation manager Gordon Cumming has been speaking at GRDC Spray Days, reminding growers that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) finalised the review of all 2,4-D labels in September 2020. This resulted in several amendments and changes to all labels relating to the herbicide's use conditions.

APVMA's review followed the 2,4-D Environmental Assessment Report in 2018. That report aimed to ensure all products containing 2,4-D continued to be used in a manner that was safe for the environment and agriculture.

The new instructions for use include:

- a mandatory requirement to use nozzles producing droplets no smaller than very coarse spray quality;
- an advisory statement about spray application over summer to use extremely coarse (XC) to ultra-coarse (UC) spray quality in sensitive areas;
- DO NOT spray when hazardous surface temperature inversion conditions exist;
- DO NOT apply if heavy rains or storms are forecast within three days, or if any rain is expected within six hours; and
- DO NOT apply in a manner that may cause an unacceptable impact to native vegetation, agricultural crops, landscaped gardens and aquaculture production, or cause contamination of plant or livestock commodities, outside the application site from spray drift.

More-detailed buffer zones are now provided on the label for boomsprays, optical spot spraying technology and aircraft, taking into account application rate and release height.

Mr Cumming says the buffer zones provided on the labels give guidance and indicate the minimum required distance.

"These distances are calculated on worst-case scenarios for both native vegetation and natural aquatic areas, and may not be sufficient in all instances. For example, the presence of sensitive crops beyond the stated buffer zone may still pose a risk from spray drift when they are downwind of the point of release. Whenever possible, the application should be made when the wind direction is blowing away from any sensitive crops or vegetation."



COMMITTEE MEMBER MOVEMENTS

OUTGOING:

Many thanks to outgoing Strategic Board Member Andrew Walter. Wal has been on the board for 4 years and prior to that, 2 years on the Operations Committee. But we aren't losing him altogether...we're grateful that he's remaining on the Operations Committee, hopefully for years to come.

John Carey, Operations Committee Member and Wilmington Hub rep for 5 years has also hung up his UNFS hat, along with Emma McInerney (Industry Rep—3 yrs.) and Rhiannon Schilling (Industry Rep—2 yrs.). We thank them all for their time and are grateful for their input to the group.

INCOMING:

Wal has been replaced on the Strategic Board by David Coyner. David works for Riverland Lending Services (one of our sponsors) based in Adelaide.

Other new Operations Committee Members in 2022/23 are Will Heaslip (Appila Hub Rep), David Moore (Jamestown Hub Rep) Ruth Sommerville, Nick Davis & Joanne Ridsdale—Industry Reps.

A Warm Welcome to all our new Committee Members

STAFF MOVEMENTS

we bid farewell to

Morgan McCallum, Engagement Coordinator/Project Officer

and

Kristina Mudge, Administration & Finance Officer

Morgan has been with us since June 2021 providing assistance to the Hub reps and our staff to run events of all kinds. Her work on the Tools, Tech & Transformation event at Melrose was greatly appreciated by all involved....A huge learning curve for all of us to hold an event with exhibitors plus presenters, with Morgan taking the lead for this successful event. She also has been involved in livestock project work and hopes to secure more work in this field—her passion.

Kristina commenced employment with UNFS in July 2018, initially taking on the Administration role and adding finance following Mary' Timm's departure in 2019. Kristina has enjoyed her time working alongside both the committee, members and our staff (which has almost doubled in her time with the group). She's now looking forward to semi-retirement as the next generation in her family takeover the family farm at Baroota, providing opportunities for travel and to pursue her other interests.

The Strategic Board, Operations Committee Members and Members thank both Morgan and Kristina for their input to the group and wish them well for their future endeavours.

Christmas Recipes

Here's one for the kids!!

Butternut Snap Rudolph Chocolate Tarts...yum

Follow the [link](#) for all the details



"2022 Lentil Harvest Special"

George Calombaris' Cypriot Grain Salad

A healthy alternative with plenty of taste and colour
(substitute dried cranberries for the pomegranate seeds if they're out of season)

Follow the [link](#) for all the details



Upcoming Events Calendar

December 2022

Date	Event	Contact
1st	Jamestown Sheep Market	Scott Fleetwood 0247727827
15th	Jamestown Sheep Market	Scott Fleetwood 0247727827

February 2023

7th	GRDC Updates—Adelaide	admin@orm.com.au, https://www.orm.com.au
8th	GRDC Updates—Adelaide	admin@orm.com.au, https://www.orm.com.au
9th	McKillop Farm Management Group - GRDC Grain Storage Workshop	Sally Klose 0427 829 143 Registrations: https://agex.org.au/event/mfmg-grdc-grain-storage-workshop/

March

TBA	UNFS Result Sessions	jade@unfs.com.au
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Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year

Contact Us

Email us at: unfs@outlook.com

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Upper North Farming Systems

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