



Upper North Farming Systems  
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# Upper North Farming Systems

27/03/2025

## **An open letter to our valued sponsors, RD&E partners or supporters, current and future.**

As you are aware large parts of South Australia is currently experiencing a crippling drought. The Upper North, and in particular the area around Booleroo Centre has experienced consecutive seasons of drought conditions. In fact, we only received 102mm for the 2024 growing season and 189mm for the 2023 growing season, resulting in a severe decline in production through-out the region.

We are writing this letter seeking sponsorship in the form of donations for our community commercial paddocks. In Booleroo we have two paddocks totalling 55Ha run as a fundraising project for our community. Paddock one is farmed by the Booleroo Centre District School Governing Council. Paddock two is farmed by Upper North Farming Systems volunteers. Management of these paddocks is done by a small group of local farmers with help from the wider community. The success of the commercial paddocks is largely contributed to the generosity of the local farmers and small businesses in which operational costs and input costs are generally donated or charged at cost price. This has work extremely well in the past with the generosity being sometimes overwhelming.

The Booleroo Centre District School commercial paddock totals 35Ha. A 30Ha paddock is owned by Viterra and free-leased to the school with the remaining 5Ha being owned by the school. 25% of profits supports the school agriculture curriculum and the remainder going to capital improvements. The Ag curriculum has a strong focus on teaching students ethical, sustainable, and modern farming practices in both the broadacre cropping and livestock farming. Currently the school is fundraising to resurface the basketball court and put a shade shed over the top.


Upper North Farming Systems is a not-for-profit farming systems group that specialise in extension activities and locally relevant trials to support cropping and livestock farmers across the region. The UNFS commercial paddock is 20Ha and owned by the local independent reseller Northern Ag and generously free-leased to UNFS. The profits generated supports the publicly available weather station in both annual subscriptions and maintenance costs and also enables UNFS to self-fund local trials and extension activities. These funds has enabled UNFS to respond quickly to seasonal challenges like frost events or disease outbreaks giving growers high quality industry support when faced with uncertainty.

The aim of seeking this sponsorship for the 2025 cropping year is to take all the financial and physical pressure off of the businesses and farming families that have been incredibly generous historically during this ongoing drought. Our hope is to raise enough to be able to pay full retail prices for inputs from local resellers and pay farmers a contractor's rate for the operational aspects of the programme.

Cash sponsorship will be greatly appreciated however donations of inputs being chemical, fertiliser or diesel will be accepted with much gratitude. We aim to turn a \$350-\$400Ha cost into a \$1000-\$1200 gross return, with potential to do better if the season allows. We are aiming to raise \$20000 in cash and goods to enable us to fulfil our goal of covering the costs while maximising the fundraising returns. Funds generated will be prioritised to the school initially to ensure they reach their goals. If you have any questions please contact Matt Nottle on 0428810811.

Your kind sponsorship will be recognised during the year in the school and UNFS newsletters, and on printed posters that will be displayed on the fences of the commercial paddocks. During the year we will do crop updates with the students and publish them on the social platforms.

Kind Regards,



Name Tas Kteniclis

Booleroo Centre District School



Name Michael Zwar

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