

SCF FOCUS



Events for your Calendar

Thursday 19th March

Regional Crop Update Green Range Country Club (see enclosed flier)

Tuesday 24th March

GRDC Pre-seeding Frost Workshop, Borden (see enclosed flier)

Thursday 26th March

GRDC Farm Business Update, Katanning (see enclosed flier)

Thursday 9th April

SCF Management Committee Meeting at DAFWA, Albany

Jottings from the Chair

I hope everyone has had a chance to get away for a break after harvest because 2015 seems to be racing along with seeding just around the corner.



I would like to introduce Terry Duke to Stirlings to Coast farmers. Terry is our new executive officer and is learning the ropes with the help of Heather Adams. Terry will be at the Crop Updates on the 19 March at the Green Range Country Club so it will be a good opportunity to introduce yourself to him.

The Stirlings to Coast Committee and members have just done a Governance course that will help with the running and organization of committees and meetings.

The Crop Updates coming up is on the 19 March along with the Stirlings to Coast AGM. This gives you the opportunity to be part of this vibrant committee.

Heather Adams! Well what can I say? She has been the rock behind the scenes of the Stirlings to Coast group, is a great organizer and has so many contacts in the industry that Stirlings to Coast would not be where it is now without her contribution. Heather is not leaving and is staying to help make the hand over to Terry Duke smoother, so there will be the opportunity to thank her.

Being my last newsletter as chairman I would like to thank the sponsors for their support of the Stirlings to Coast group. With their support we are able to research and put into place projects that help our local areas.

I would also like to thank the committee for their hard work during the year attending meetings and making decisions that help our farming area to improve productivity.

A big thank you to John Blake who has worked tirelessly on our projects this year and has worked closely with our farmers.

John

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We would like to thank our Tier 1 Sponsors



Incoming Executive Officer Profile



I am married and Lesley and I have two boys 18 and 23, both in Perth and studying at Murdoch University. We currently live in Albany, but will move to a small property in Young's Siding, in April.

I started my career as a primary school teacher, teaching mainly middle and upper primary classes in regional and metro schools.

I was promoted and served as principal at Cue PS and Ongerup PS.

So as to be able to spend more time with my young family, I resigned from the Education Department and bought a farm, 25 km SE of Ongerup, growing mainly barley and running a mixed merino flock.

Both boys started school in Albany in 2007, so the family moved to Albany and the farm was leased. I took on short term contract work and worked for NSP, Forest Products Commission, Gillamii and SCNRM.

In 2011, I started a 3 ½ year contract with GSEDC, developing partnerships to support education and the transition to work in the Great Southern. The scope of those partnerships varied from a partnership supporting early childhood education, through to a partnership that helped more of our regional students attend university. This work allowed me to develop a broad network ranging from Federal and State politicians, key regional organisations and regional groups.

I was extremely pleased to be appointed as the Executive Officer of Stirlings to Coast Farmers in February. In the first few months of this appointment, I will be particularly focusing on getting to know the members and stakeholders with a particular focus on listening to the needs and concerns of both of these groups. I will attend as many events as possible, wearing my SCF shirt, and would hope that you would come up and say hello.

I look forward to working with the membership, committee and staff of Stirlings to Coast Farmers, to implement the priorities of the group.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM YOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Stirlings to Coast Farmers committee has outlined 10 discrete functions that will guide the work that I do. These functions are reflected in the following 10 key performance indicators:

1. **Membership of the group is increased and diversified**
2. **Sponsorship of the group is expanded**
3. *Meetings are timely, professionally run and actions are followed up*
4. *The financial management of the group complies with relevant standards and reporting requirements are met*
5. *Research projects are professionally supported and new opportunities sought and reporting requirements are met in a timely manner*
6. *All aspects of event management are professional, and are undertaken in a timely manner supporting the aims of the group*
7. *Training needs are identified, opportunities are sought and promoted to the membership, and training is provided in a professional manner*
8. **Leadership is displayed in all aspects of planning for the group's expansion and sustainability**
9. *Promotion of the group is undertaken in a professional manner, to support the membership of the group and the group's aims.*
10. **Stakeholder relationships are strengthened and new stakeholders are sought.**

Some of these KPI's are strategic, (1, 2, 8 and 10) and will support the long term sustainability of SCF. Others (3, 4, 6 and 9) are clearly operational and are about the day to day management of the group for the benefit of members. The rest are a mixture of strategic and operational.

The committee, through the Chair, will hold me accountable for the achievement of the 10 KPI's initially at the 3 month review and then subsequently at the annual review.

I look forward to working closely with you all, to achieve these KPI's.

Terry

Stirlings to Coast Farmers Current and Proposed R&D plus links with partners' R&D

John Blake SCF R&D Coordinator

Mobile: 0438 761950



The Stirlings to Coast Farmers Committee has a range of current and proposed R&D and links with partners R&D. The new SCF sub committee on R&D (Brent Pritchard, John Howard, Iain Mackie, Alaina Smith with Jeremy Lemon and John Blake) is seeking members' priorities for R&D in the four main areas:

1. Soils 2. Crops 3. Crop Protection and 4. Farm systems, pastures and livestock

Priority areas of R&D

- 1. Soils 2. Crops 3. Crop Protection 4. Farming systems, pastures**

1. Soils: amelioration including physical, chemical, biological		SCF Growers *Contacts or Trial hosts
Soil water and Profit: Soil water probes: Are you using the information generated?	J. Lemon + Landmark	Mal Thomson, Greg Mengler,
Soil constraints (soil compaction esp.)	J. Lemon+ D. Bakker	Josh Goad, Derek Curwen
Soil amelioration - Mould-board and Liming	Derk Bakker	Clint Willis, Mark Slattery +Gunwarrie and Greg Mengler
Treatment of sodic hard setting soils	Martin Wiehl	Martin Wiehl – gypsum trial
Soil acidity and efficacy of Lime: testing of lime sources (lab) then field testing strategies in long term trial SCF funded startup- \$3,500	Greg Mengler SCF and SCF Western Group. Wes Lefroy Precision Soil Tech	Working Group plus industry. Lime efficiency Chris Gazey. Sharing of Lime test results. Greg Mengler, Andrew Slade and Iain Mackie
Lime Efficiency - for amelioration of subsoil acidity South Coast NRM funded for 2014/15. Initiated in 2013.	Greg Mengler/ Blake/ Gazey/ Derk Bakker	Greg Mengler
Non-wetting soils – nil disturbance systems - future proposal?	Margaret Roper, Steve Davies	Brad Wood, Peter Diprose, Mark Adams, A. Thomas, D. Hines
Accu-spread workshops with Gillamii Frost workshop with NSP	Russell Nicholl Garren Knell	Mark Adams, Greg Mengler, Keith Wilson, Chris Tomlinson
Other.....?		

Lime Application Demo:

There will be a demonstration of deep banding of lime at Greg Mengler's block in Tenterden (follow signs off Lunt Road onto Pinjalup Road)

Tuesday 31st March at 3.30pm.



Thank You To Our Agency Partners



2. Crops and Cropping systems: Cereals, Oilseeds, Legumes - varieties

Broad-scale variety testing with seed companies - variety specific agronomy including fungicides etc.	SCF Trials, Seed companies & John Blake	John Howard, Chris Kirkwood, Mal Thompson, Ken Drummond
Testing wheat, barley and canola varieties (RT, RR, TT, CL etc.) and systems - plot research & broad-scale tests		
NVT's National Contract testing of varieties	Contract – Kalyx and Eurofin	Andrew Slade / Scott Smith and other growers
Other.....?		

3. Crop Protection: Weeds, Diseases and insects- incl. spray technology

Weed seed resistance testing- SCF (Nov 2015) SCF/GRDC Field tour (Aug 2015)	Testing labs AHRI	Plans for 2015 SCF test program Chaff cart evaluation?
Barley disease trials. Plus development of the Spore trap network for early warning system – ongoing validation	DAFWA: Kith Jayasena	SCF Grower network with spore traps plus yield loss trial (MBRS) and tests on SCF broad-scale trials
R&D root disease management, Field Diagnostics by UAV and new chemical options	DAFWA: Daniel Huberli	Paddocks (with history of Rhizoctonia) being sown into cereals 2015 are sought as monitoring sites
Snails project –with Albany RCSN	Svetlana Micic	New project – sites to be established
Herbicide Resistance Management Systems:	Companies with stacked -gene resistance	Derek Curwen: Mark Adams: Seed coating tests
Trials on managing Herbicide resistance. Firebreaks and chemical fallow	Sally Peltzer DAWA	Chemical fallow and firebreaks:
Other....?		e.g. Evaluation of action based on Predicta B results

4. Farming Systems, Pastures and Livestock

Legume pasture phases in crop based rotations – SCF /GRDC: Lemon & Blake: G1 in barley in 2015		Jeff Stoney continuing project – benefit for 2015 barley crop to be measured
Phased Pasture systems for livestock - MLA – John Blake MLA: M1 pasture species trial (2015 in canola) M2 Pasture establishment with twin sowing (2014) and summer sowing (Feb 2015). M3 +/- clay treatments set up in advance and twin sowing (June 2015)		John and Ashton Hood continuing MLA project with John Blake
SCF/MLA : Sowing systems for non-wetting sands (Small seed / pod segment) –seeder comparisons - proposed test for canola seed / clover seed / Serradella pod using different seeding equipment precision seeder, disc seeder and tyne seeder		Peter Diprose / Barry Pearce / Kelvin Ridgway/ Daryl Hines/ A. Thomas/John Blake
MLA study (prime lamb focus with optimal worm control strategies).		MLA / DAFWA Brown Besier:
GRDC Grain & Graze project – phase 3 Trials with continuing projects and new project on over-sowing of crops into perennial pastures (Wellstead site)		Jeremy Lemon and Perry Dolling: Iain Mackie and Steve Beech, Chris Kirkwood
Other....?		

1. What are the questions you want answered from R&D in our region?
2. Are you able to host any trials relevant to those questions?

Please contact SCF committee members this month and/or come along to the 2015 SCF Crop Updates 19 March



Stirlings to Coast Farmers
and the
Department of Agriculture and Food WA
present the

2015 Regional Crop Update

*Thursday 19 March Green Range Country Club
South Coast Highway, Many peaks.*

Register/morning tea from 9.15 am for a 9.50 am start

Full day program including:
Grower experiences and speakers from CSIRO,
DAFWA, AHRI, Farmanco, Bayer, CBH and Rabobank.
Keynote Speaker – Mark McKeon, “Work-life Balance”

Program includes -
NVT's and Crop Variety Options for 2015
Crop Grazing
Crop Root Diseases
Soil Constraints Latest Research
Managing Herbicide Resistance
Using Lime Efficiently
Market Outlook and Farm Finances
Enhancing Personal Performance and Resilience

No cost to members and non-members \$55
Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea provided
Stay for a drink and a chat afterwards. Dinner also available.

For catering purposes please RSVP to Terry Duke 0429 965480 or
scf_eo@westnet.com.au by Monday 16th March.



Department of
Agriculture and Food



Rabobank

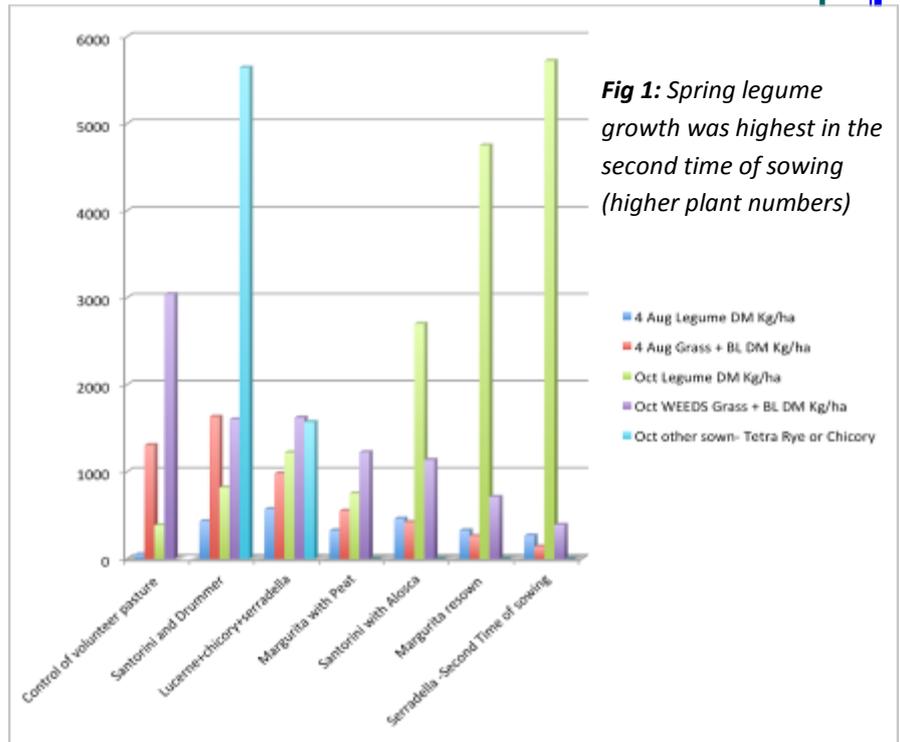


Pasture Trials: Optimal pasture phases for crop based rotations: MLA Trial Host and Growers: John and Ashton Hood

RESULTS to date: Opening Rainfall from sowing had limited effectiveness with only 6 mm on 27 April. The main rainfall event was 20 May with water repellence measured. The adverse start to 2014 season resulted in much higher plant densities in “wet” sowing – the second time of sowing 2 weeks after May 20 rain (see right).

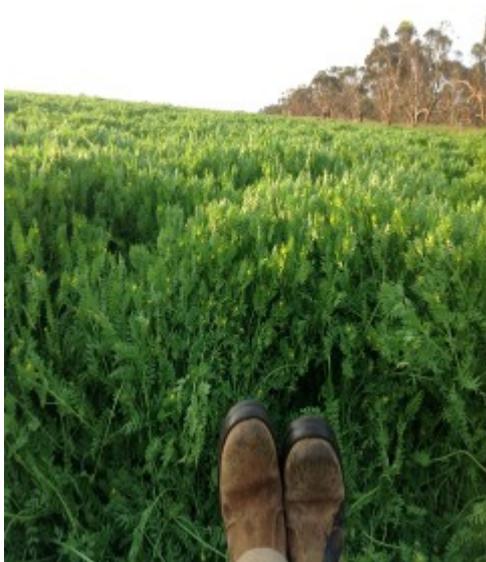
Pasture plots were kept ungrazed during spring to maximise pod set and plots were all sampled to get measurement of pod yields (kg per hectare). All plots spray topped after pod set completed.

The pasture trial has now been grazed and prepared for cropping to Canola in 2015. The Chicory and Lucerne block was fenced (temporary electric fencing), biomass sampled and then grazed and spray treatments applied.



In Summary

Ashton and John Hood pasture sown April 2013
photo 9 September 2013



Ashton and John Hood pasture second time of sowing photo 11 September 2014



In 2013, April sowing had huge advantage (see above) while in 2014 with an adverse start (< decile 1 in the locality in contrast to most of the agricultural regions) the second time of sowing is higher producing.

NOTE: A trial testing different establishment methods has been initiated with Legume pod application treatments applied in July 2014 barley crop for 2015 pasture. A second set of treatments has then been applied in 2015 summer (“summer sowing” treatment).

Acknowledgements: John and Ashton Hood for hosting the MLA trials. The MLA for funding this pasture research

RCSN (GRDC) project: Rotation Renewal: profitable legume phase options.

Host: Jeff and Kate Stoney, Gnowellen

Measuring the nitrogen benefit of the new hard seeded legumes for Stirlings sandplain (non wetting, acidic with low water and nutrient holding). With less than a decile 1 start the dry seeding resulted in low plant numbers. This was reflected in the pasture dry weights at end of July. Because of staggered emergence of pasture species the spray applications (grass and broadleaf weeds) had to be delayed and only achieved suppression of capeweed etc. Weed biomass was high –see fig 1.

Following second grazing (cell grazing) in August further spraying was undertaken with 2,4DB plus Diuron for capeweed control and then a spraytop with paraquat. The Margurita Serradella was the species that tolerated *this full on weed control* that certainly stopped every other species. With *the full on weed spray program* plant growth was held back over Spring and the Magurita Serradella achieved high growth rates in November and into December. This year plots will be cropped to measure Nitrogen response compared to nil pasture plots.

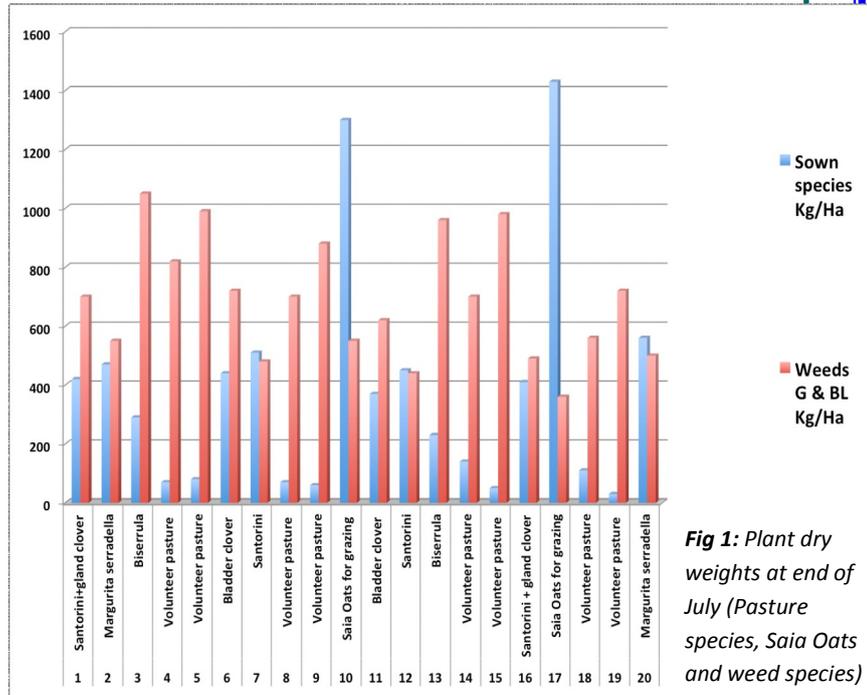


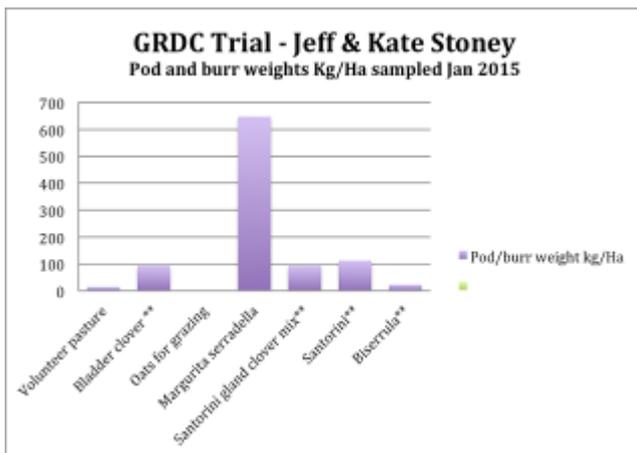
Fig 1: Plant dry weights at end of July (Pasture species, Saia Oats and weed species)



Fig 2: Sheep grazing control plots next to a replication of the Margurita Serradella (5 Dec 2014)



Fig 3: Plots of Margurita Serradella ranged in pod weight from 400 -840 Kg/Ha



Pasture plots were kept ungrazed during spring to maximise pod set and plots were all sampled to get measurement of pod yields (kg per hectare). All plots spray topped after pod set completed. The pasture trial has now been fully grazed and prepared for cropping to Canola in 2015.

Acknowledgements: Jeff and Kate Stoney for hosting the RCSN (GRDC) project

The Western Stirlings to Coast Farmers group ran two pasture trials in 2014 with Grain and Graze Pasture program support from Perry Dolling

Table: Spring biomass production (T/Ha) –by Perry Dolling (DAFWA)

Pasture Species /cultivar	Iain Mackie's trial (T/Ha)	Steve Beech's trial (T/Ha)
<i>Arrowleaf clover</i>	7.35	7.74
<i>Bindoon sub clover</i>	6.13	6.46
<i>Biserulla</i>	5.29	5.44
<i>Bladder clover and Magurita</i>	7.01	7.86
<i>Crimson clover</i>	7.46	7.43
<i>Dalkeith sub clover</i>	5.49	5.15
<i>Mackie Mix ***</i>	8.42	9.45
<i>Margurita Serradella</i>	6.82	6.10
<i>Medic A</i>	6.43	5.27
<i>Narrikup</i>	5.25	5.34
<i>Santorini Serradella</i>	8.52	6.00

*** Mackie mix is 20% Balansa clover, 30% Dalkeith sub clover, 30% Trikkala clover and 20% Narrikup sub clover. The trials were not grazed in spring so aerial seeded species favoured compared to sub clovers which are more tolerant of grazing. Note: establishment was variable so sampling confined in sections of plots.



Field Day October 2014 **Acknowledgements:** Iain Mackie (host grower and trial instigation and coordination) and Steve Beech (host grower). Perry Dolling (DAFWA pasture researcher)

Stirlings to Coast Farmers Members Map

With the help of Jeremy Lemon from DAFWA, we are updating the existing map that shows the location of our membership across the region. The map is to show properties managed (owned, leased, share farmed etc) by our membership. This map will become a powerful tool to use when we engage with sponsors, suppliers, regional organizations, government etc, as it shows just how extensive the member base for Stirlings to Coast Farmers is.

New members will be asked to identify the properties managed by them when they join and members attending the Crop Updates this Thursday will have an opportunity to view the map and update if necessary.

This map will be updated on a regular basis and the membership will be surveyed from time to time to keep the information on the map current. Member confidentiality will be given a high priority.

Terry Duke

Accu-Spread Demonstration Day

What is Accu-Spread?

Accu-Spread is a programme that involves the independent testing and accreditation of fertiliser spreading equipment for accuracy and evenness of spreading. It contributes significantly to quality assurance, productivity improvement, environment sustainability and management of risk. When a machine is Accu-Spread accredited, the operator will know the capacity of the machine to apply a number of nominated products to an industry standard of accuracy.

Variation in fertiliser application rates across a paddock is inefficient and can significantly reduce plant productivity. Without an Accu-Spread test, an operator cannot be certain of the spread pattern of a machine. It could be over applying nutrients in some parts and under applying them in others. Without this knowledge, the operator is unable to optimise the performance of the machine for the best environmental and productivity outcomes.

Understanding spread patterns and fertiliser particle size can result in significant savings and benefits to growers. Accu-Spread specialist Russell Nichol ran a workshop in Tenterden on the 23 February which was co-hosted by Stirlings to Coast Farmers and Gillamii. Russell is the testing officer with the Australian Fertiliser Services Association.

There were 6 spreaders belonging to local farmers that were used for demonstrations on the day.

SCF member Mark Adams attended the day and made the following observations - **"A day that everybody that owns a spreader should attend"**.

At the Tenterden day a CGS, single spinner Marshall, 2 double spinner Marshall's and a Bredal spreader were all driven over test trays with superphosphate and then urea.

The trays were 1/2 m square placed in a line for a total width of 40 metres with each of the spreaders passing through the middle of the trays, spreading at a rate of approximately 100 kg/ha.

After each pass the fertiliser was weighed from each tray and the weight entered into a computer program for each spreader. The program then calculated the maximum width that each spreader could spread with no more than a 15% total variation.

After doing the initial testing Russell made changes to the paddles on the spinners of the two double spinner Marshall spreaders that were only previously achieving spreading widths of around 16 metres with urea.

After the modifications, the tests were done again with impressive results - a consistent spread pattern extending to a width of 25 metres.

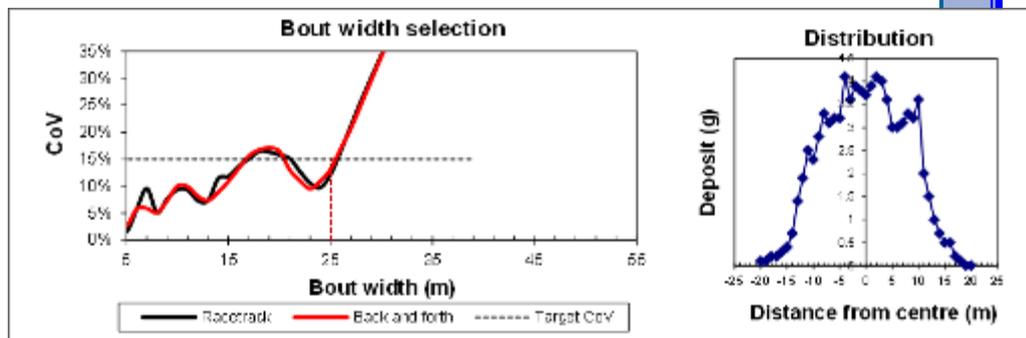


Accu-spread modifications between tests: Keith Wilson did radical surgery on spreader spinners with materials and advice supplied by Accu-spread specialist Russell Nickol

At my request Russell came to look at my own CGS spreader the next day. We have owned a CGS Transpread spreader for 10 years now and have only been able to spread urea to a width of 18 m with any confidence that it wouldn't strip.

We worked on modifications to the spreader for around 4 hours. Changes included putting on new spinners as well as a different divider.

The following graph shows the test results after the modifications.



The machine as tested can be operated at any width where the graph line is below the 15% coefficient of variation (CV) and still achieve an acceptable level of variation across the spread pattern.

Knowing what I know now I believe that over the last 10 years it has cost me around \$60,000 due to the machine not operating at maximum efficiency.

If there is enough interest we may be able to host another Accu-spread Demonstration Day later in the year. Contact John Blake 0438 761950.

Report on 2014 GRDC Southern Tour (Day1) on management of Non Wetting Soils - implications for 2015

John Blake SCF R&D Coordinator

The tour provided an excellent update on research and grower innovation to address non-wetting soils. There were some highly effective "*maximum tillage*" solutions incorporating claying, spading, delving or mould-boarding with various combinations of machinery modifications. There were also "*nil disturbance*" systems with equally startling results on Esperance sandplain (Doc Featherstonhaugh et al).

Dave & Sally Cox's one-pass operation (at Waterhatch Farms, Neridup) is using a mould-board plow linked to a seeder cart sowing in front of a land packer. This was effectively transforming the deeper soil profile yet leaving a stable sown surface. NOTE: if the inverted soil is disturbed again in separate operations (rather than one pass before the moist soil brought to the surface dries again) it would become "powder puff".



Fig 1: Dave (pictured) also has modified his more conventional Morris seeder with an extra option of putting seed directly in front of press wheel (rather than all into the twin sowing boot that directs seed into furrow walls) if dry seeding. Note: In 2014 furrow infill from dry sowing has caused low establishment when pressing pasture seed into dry unstable furrow walls (in localities that had a lower than decile 1 autumn 2014 rainfall).

Peter Luberda's integrated program: West Dalyup

Almost everyone traveling to Esperance would have noted a long-standing claying trial (established in April 2000) in a paddock along the North side of the highway.



Fig 2: Claying trial: The plot on the left is 300t/ha (30% clay) applied 14 years ago versus control (untreated on the right). The impact on non wetting has been large and is not diminishing with time.

Note: 150t/ha of Stirlings clay (where tested at 60% clay) is equivalent to 300t/ha of the 30% clay. Peter now owns a clay carry grader and also purchased a Farmax Spader in 2009 to incorporate clay rather than just smudging his clay. Cereal yields have since increased from 2.5 t/ha to 4.6 t/ha.

Doc Featherstonhaugh – the “Nil Disturbance system”

A water repellent soil which has been disturbed while dry becomes much more water repellent (observation confirmed by trials and experience). Systems of slot seeding with “Zero Tillage”, stubble retention and exclusion from grazing have resulted in Doc’s sand-plain property not now displaying water repellency properties as evidenced by paddock checks this year versus 17 years ago (JB). The systems have taken years of development and concerns regarding *Rhizoctonia* and inability to regularly use Trifluralin (without some incorporation) have been removed.

The conclusions are confirmed by 6 years of CSIRO research by Margaret Roper on the Munglinup property. Zero/No Till has been shown to preserve old plant root channels to the surface which acts as conduits for water entry. The “bio-pores” are preserved by microbial activity and explain why such a turn around can occur on sand-plain if an almost nil disturbance regime can be maintained. Doc reports that his soils are totally different in appearance and productivity to what they were in early 2000. This is confirmed in the CSIRO trials.

Fig 3: The CSIRO trials at Munglinup for last six years – water infiltration in plots:



Lack of entry of water/blue dye solution into soil immediately following tyne working at Munglinup in WA’s south-coast district.
EXTREME Non- wetting!



Entry of water/blue dye solution into soil under adjacent zero-tillage plots at Munglinup in WA’s south-coast district.
Good wettability



Fig 4: Doc Featherstonehaugh reflecting on the non-wetting in his paddocks 14 years ago!
His triple disc Walker system is being prepared again for 2015 with all 2014 crops having achieved record plant establishment success and no sign of *Rhizoctonia* etc.

Dr Margaret Roper (CSIRO) will be presenting at the 2015 SCF Crop Updates on Thursday 19 March with further research results!

Foundations of Directorship Course

An overview by Ken Drummond

The Stirlings to Coast Farmers Executive Committee decided to undertake Governance training for committee members, as we realise the importance and the increasing responsibilities of being an effective committee member. This is a necessary step for the group, as we seek to refine our strategy to serve our members better.

On the 5th March the Australian Institute of Company Directors held a workshop at the invitation of SCF. SCF also invited some of our younger members who no doubt will be future executives. The course was facilitated by Mike Horabin FAICD, a leading specialist in this field.

Mike explained how modern and successful boards are structured, and specifically the roles and responsibilities of the members. It was not surprising to find that Wesfarmers was quite a front runner, arguably having the most sophisticated and accountable governance in the world.

After the training was completed Mike sat down with the current SCF Executive Committee for thirty minutes taking questions, and providing some suggestions on how the group could operate more effectively. A first action will be to establish sub-committees in the areas of trails, commodities, events and website.

Reece Curwen is the recipient of a Nuffield Scholarship funded by the GRDC.

He is using his scholarship to investigate how good management of broad acre farming enterprises can ensure productivity and profitability.

Currently Reece is on a tour which will take him to New Zealand, Brazil, USA, Mexico, UK, South Africa, Kenya and Europe.

Follow his blog at reececurwen.wordpress.com

Useful Links

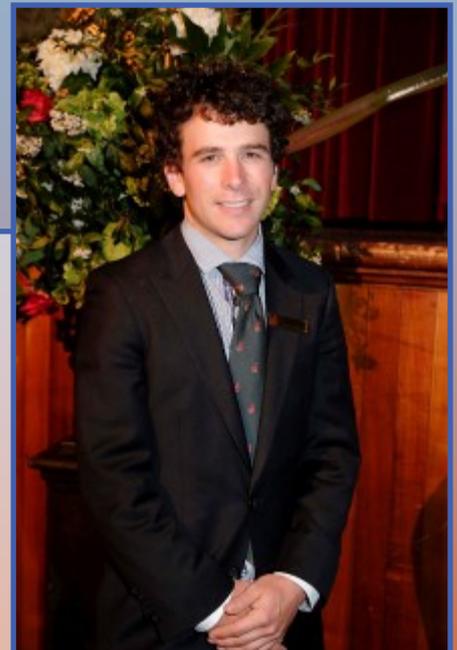


Will you be towing agricultural equipment?

The Department of Transport have produced an excellent booklet to give advice to primary producers and those involved in the movement of agricultural equipment. It is strongly advised that those involved in transporting equipment obtain a copy. The website link is - http://www.transport.wa.gov.au/mediafiles/licensing/lbu_v_s_b_towedagricultural.pdf

Worksafe has launched the Small Business Safety web page to help small business comply with their workplace safety and health obligations.

www.worksafe.wa.gov.au





NATIONAL
FROST
INITIATIVE



GRDC Pre-Seeding Frost Workshop

You are invited to attend the informative and interactive GRDC Pre-Seeding Frost Workshop.

Borden Sports Pavilion

Tuesday 24th March: 7:30 – 12:00 Breakfast on arrival.

Hosted by: Stirling's to Coast Grower Group.

The aim of the interactive workshop is to provide growers with:

- An update on the latest frost research and a review of previous research.
- Best bet management tools before seeding in 2015.
- An opportunity to provide feedback to GRDC on your priorities for future frost research.

Please see RSVP details on the bottom of the sheet for catering purposes.

General Outline of Frost Workshop

1. Welcome and overview of the GRDC Frost Initiative - GRDC
2. The scene "How to Frost a Wheat Crop" – **Garren Knell** (ConsultAg)
3. Climatology – The changing nature of Frost Risk in Southern Australia – **Ian Foster** (DAFWA)
4. Wheat frost susceptibility ratings and future genetic solutions – **Ben Biddulph** (DAFWA)
5. Interactions of stubble and frost – **Rebecca Jenkinson** (Living Farms)
6. Grazing crops to delay flowering and reduce frost risk and the role copper may play in minimising frost damage – **Steve Curtin** (ConsultAg)
7. Dry seeding, wet seeding and delaying sowing – trade-offs between frost and terminal drought in the Eastern Wheatbelt – **Doug Abrecht** (DAFWA)
8. Frost Management: 10 things you can do – the key take home messages – **Garren Knell** (ConsultAg)
9. Questions and Interaction

For more information please contact Garren Knell gk@consultag.com.au or 0427442887.

Please RSVP to Lauren (for catering purposes):

ls@consultag.com.au

Phone: (08) 6253 2000

Last Name: _____ No. Attendees: _____ Venue: _____

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Farm Business
UPDATE



GRDC Farm Business Updates - WA

**Where
and
when**

• Geraldton

• Merredin

• Katanning

Topics include

Geraldton - March 23rd

(Geraldton Universities Centre)

Merredin - March 25th

(Merredin Regional Community Centre)

Katanning - March 26th

(Katanning Leisure Centre)

▶ **9am-4.30pm**

▶ **A forum for growers and advisers to learn from and network with leading industry professionals**

- ▶ **What is happening with grain farming in Eastern Europe and how does it apply to Australia?** – Hear from a leading European farmer
- ▶ **Achieving peak business performance** – Simple methods and disciplines you can use in your business
- ▶ **Managing business and production risk** – Effective risk analysis and decision making processes for your business
- ▶ **Human resource management on the farm** – Key pointers to getting it right for farm businesses
- ▶ **Managing farm logistics** – how it can improve your bottom line
- ▶ **Farm business leadership** – A guide to leading farm businesses well and making key decisions under pressure
- ▶ **Farm machinery** – Understanding the true cost and getting the best value out of machinery

**For registration head to www.orm.com.au
Phone 03 5441 6176 or email admin@orm.com.au**

Emergency Preparedness



In the event of an emergency, the property should have documentation readily available to employees and emergency services to respond appropriately without delay.

This information should be displayed or kept on the premises in a place that is easily accessible to the emergency services (for example in the office, workshop or located at the main entrance of the property). The documentation should be housed in an unlocked holder of substantial weatherproof construction and marked "Emergency information box".

Contents to be available should include:

- Property plan
- Emergency contact listing
- Chemical register and manifest



Medical Emergency

First aid includes any emergency care given to an injured or ill person before medical assistance arrives. It would be good practice for everyone, where appropriate, to be first aid trained. Each farm property must provide first aid facilities that are adequate for the immediate treatment of injuries and illnesses that may arise.

As tractors, trucks and utilities are classified as a workplace and used in isolation, a first aid kit should be fitted according to the relevant risk. Due to the remoteness of some properties you may consider undertaking first aid training.

Depending on the number of people employed on your property, there are minimum requirements for trained first aid personnel and facilities at the workplace. It is good practice for everyone to be first aid trained. In the event of requiring medical assistance, personnel should:

- Check for any threatening situation and remove further danger
- Remain with the injured person and provide appropriate first aid
- Notify the ambulance service by dialling 000. Digital mobile phones can also call 112.
- Designate someone to meet the ambulance and direct it to the location of the casualty
- Try not to leave the injured person alone
- Do not move the injured person unless they are exposed to further injury



Life threatening problems should be dealt observing the **DRSABCD** principle

- D** DANGER – ensure the area is safe
- R** RESPONSE– check for response.
- S** SEND FOR HELP –Call triple zero (000) for an ambulance or ask another person to make the call
- A** AIRWAYS – Check in mouth for foreign material
- B** BREATHING –Check for breathing. Place in recovery position for normal breathing.
- C** CPR – Start CPR if breathing is not normal. Continue until help arrives or patient recovers
- D** DEFIBRILLATE –Apply defibrillator if available and follow voice prompts

For information on First Aid training please visit <http://www.stjohnambulace.com.au/st-john/first-aid-training>



There will be a First Aid course in Mt Barker on the 21st March

Trial Photos



**Greg Mengler harvesting his lime efficiency trial
January 2015**



**MLA Pasture trial at Hood's - Chicory and
Lucerne after grazing**

The Management Committee

The following are members of the Stirlings to Coast Farmers Management Committee. This group meet regularly and guide the events and research priorities for the group. They appreciate input from the wider membership and can be contacted on the numbers listed below :

- John Hood 98477034 or 0427 960950 (Chairperson)
- Mal Thomson 98543038 or 0428 543038
- Mark Adams 98541051 or 0428 910853
- Derek Curwen 98543012 or 0428 543012
- Ken Drummond 98541033 or 0427 541033
- Shane Greenslade 98542018 or 0428 542048
- Steve Hall 98472001 or 0428 472001
- Greg Mengler 98517212 or 0428 910914
- Scott Smith 98477043 or 0429 466037
- Jeff Stoney 98471011 or 0427 471011
- Mark Slattery 98477054 or 0458 477053
- Martin Wiehl 98541056 or 0447 197520
- John Howard 98543004 or 0428 543004
- Jeremy Lemon - Senior Development Officer DAFWA 98928413
- Brent Pritchard - Agronomist Farmanco 0488 428333
- John Blake - R&D Coordinator 0438 761950
- Terry Duke - Executive Officer 0429 965 480

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