

SCF *Focus*

STIRLINGS TO COAST FARMERS

SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

In this issue

- > JOTTINGS FROM THE CHAIR
- > CEO UPDATE
- > NEW BOARD MEMBER
- > R&D UPDATE
- > SNAIL UPDATE
- > STUDENT PROJECT
- > UPCOMING EVENTS
- > 10th ANNIVERSARY
- > MANAGING NET BLOTCH
- > HR TESTING EOI

STIRLINGS TO COAST

FARMERS



Jottings from the Chair

KEN DRUMMOND, SCF CHAIR

We had a fantastic 10th Anniversary Party, a big thank you to the SCF staff and other helpers. Also to Mark and Heather, Steven, Kimberly and Nathan for hosting us, particular mention to Mark 's dance moves. Mal Thompson and I have been acknowledged for our services on the Board of SCF with life memberships. We would like to thank you for this recognition and thank you for the gifts, we are now sporting very stylish leather Man Bags.

As you know there has been an enormous amount of activity going on with our fantastic R&D group.

We have had some staff changes with Eva and Kaylene moving on to greener pastures. SCF is a better organisation because of their involvement, Thank you!

Philip Honey has come on board as our Smart Farm coordinator, we are very lucky that the stars lined up. Philip comes from Esperance and brings a wealth of knowledge in the precision farming space. The Smart Farm project is very exciting, and we are fortunate to have this opportunity to hit the ground running. Well done Christine for having the foresight to get us connected.

Taryn Graham has joined us in the Bookkeeping role. I was lucky enough to be on the interview panel, with Nathan and Juliet Grist (A huge thank you Juliet). I loved Taryn's response to the question of why she was interested in the job "I love bookkeeping". Welcome Philip and Taryn.

Our board member Clare Webster along with Andrew Slade, and SCF Staff have been busy setting up a Livestock Committee. This is a fantastic initiative as it coincides with the increased capacity of SCF. If you would like to be involved, please contact Clare or Andrew and thank you to them.

SCF is currently in a very good position with a very bright future, due to the efforts of Christine Kershaw our CEO and Nathan Dovey our R&D coordinator. We have been incredibly fortunate to have Christine working tirelessly for us, her experience and passion is unmatched. Finally, the WAPCo-op is now a new gold sponsor of SCF.

Happy Farming

Ken Drummond

Jottings from the Chair	2
CEO Update	3
New Board Member	4
Events Noticeboard	5
R&D Trials Update	6
Possible snails article????	9
Finding solutions for managing net blotch	10
Introducing our new staff	11
Snail mitigation taskforce update	12
10 th Anniversary Celebration wrap-up	14
Crop nutrition field day	16
NLP2 Future farmers student connect program update	18
Movement of oversize vehicles	19
Rabobank News	
- Vietnam announcement brings glyphosate pressure closer to home	20
CBH - get harvest ready	21
Graingrowers news	22
Summit fertiliser news	22
Herbicide resistance testing form	23
Photo Gallery	24



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CEO Update

CHRISTINE KERSHAW, SCF CEO

Goodbye winter, hello spring...

Hello everyone, I hope you are enjoying our new look newsletter... we are always trying to improve ourselves here at SCF and a new style is as good as a new haircut! If you want to see my new cut, come along to the SCF Spring Field Day on 26th Sept at Green Range. Our Spring Field day will be a cracker again this year - we have a visiting farmer from NSW to talk about how his use of new technology has improved his bottom line. We will also have a mobile Pivotal trailer hooked up to a weather station and other IoTs that we are starting to investigate for you with our new Smart Farms project. Welcome to our new team members Philip Honey and Taryn Graham and a sad farewell to our Office Manager, Eva Bett who is leaving us to work in the IT world once again. You will be missed Eva but very glad to have Philip and Taryn on board.

Philip will be leading SCF's Smart Farming project and co-ordinating our efforts to get as many farms connected as we can with our new Pivotal network later this year. The network towers are due to go up very soon and we will be launching our new Smart Farm project at the Spring Field Day so come along and find out what you can do on your farm once you are better connected! There is a great afternoon in the field planned too with Nathan and the team.

Lots of other really great things happening at SCF. Our schools' program is going great guns and new projects are always in development. Nathan has been busy setting up new field trial sites and last week took 9 SCF members to Esperance for a beer tour... sorry field trials tour..... look out for an announcement soon about the start of a new Livestock R&D Committee, thanks to Clare Webster and Andrew Slade for initiating that. With EiD and sheep tech becoming more and more popular with members we hope to bring some new projects online later this year to investigate member priorities in pasture and sheep/beef R&D. If you want a say in what issues we focus on in our committees – again I encourage you to get involved.

But wait... that's not all. Actually... that's enough from me... go ahead and read about it... see you at the Spring Field Day.

Please stay safe during harvest and fingers crossed for a good season.

Cheers to all, Christine



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Search Stirlings to Coast
on these platforms:



YouTube



Introducing new Board Member - David Brown

DAVID AND EILEEN BROWN, NORTH WOOGENELLUP

Our main farm is at Burracoppin, a fair way north of here, obviously! We have been farming there for 30 years. The farm is typical cereal and sheep, about 2/3 cropped to wheat, barley and some canola. We came to Albany about 6 years ago, to live in

the town. Being keen to try out high rainfall farming, we bought a block at North Woogenellup. Soil type is mainly sand, with gravel ridges, with small areas of clay. We are trying to continuously crop it, with lupins, wheat and barley, with mixed results. It has been a learning curve, that's for sure. I am still trying to get my head around the amount of inputs that are required. A simple rule of thumb is to take my wheatbelt, low rainfall inputs and double them. Apart from the inputs, the two types of

farming are remarkably similar. The problems of weeds, crop diversity, soil acidity, compaction and timely rainfall seem to be the same the state over. I still think that agriculture has a great future, and high rainfall farming in particular, is a very exciting place to be.

My association with SCF started, first by being a member, then by going to field days organized by the group. It seemed, and has been, a good way to learn about local issues. It has also been a good way to meet the neighbors, one of whom is Ken Drummond, which led to the board appointment.

On a personal level, I am married to Eileen, with 3 adult children, one who is on the farm in Burracoppin. Apart from a short stint as an accountant, I have been farming all my working life.



I am still trying to get my head around the amount of inputs that are required. A simple rule of thumb is to take my wheatbelt, low rainfall inputs and double them.

DAVID BROWN, NORTH WOOGENELLUP



▲ Seeding at Burracoppin



▲ Harvest at Burracoppin



GRDC Legumes Demonstration Field Walk

In conjunction with Gillamii and NSPNR, SCF will be presenting an afternoon field walk at the GRDC Legume Demonstration site hosted by the Moir and Richardson families at Amelup.

WHEN: Tuesday October 15

TIME: 4pm with BBQ and refreshments to follow

WHERE: 'Inglebourne' 9684 Chester Pass Road, Amelup (approx 2km N of Amelup Store)

Everyone is welcome to attend and the field walk is FREE.

Further information: Nathan Dovey 0429 468 030

EVENTS NOTICEBOARD

2019 SPRING FIELD DAY

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 26



8:30am—GREEN RANGE COUNTRY CLUB—40521 SOUTH COAST HWY

MORNING SESSIONS:

- Keynote: Practical adoption and benefits of technology in modern Agriculture—*Nathan Simpson, Binginbar Farms, NSW*
- iLime app—*James Fisher and Jenni Clausen, DPIRD*
- Snails update—*Alaina Smith, SCF*
- Barley disease project outline—*Megan Jones, CCDM*
- SCF Data Network and Smart Farm projects—*Nick Hart, Pivotal and Philip Honey, SCF Smart Farm Co-ordinator*

AFTERNOON FIELD TOUR:

- Multi trial site
 - Cereal pre-emergent herbicide control options—*Elders*
 - Fungicide control options for leaf disease in barley—*Bayer*
 - Volunteer canola weed control options for all chemical groups—*Pacific Seeds*
 - Pivotal demonstration
- Lime ripping trial
- Canola NVT

Morning tea and lunch supplied.

Finish the day with drinks and dinner (at own cost) at the Green Range Country Club

**SCF MEMBERS FREE
NON-MEMBERS \$50**



OUR GOLD SPONSORS



Register online at <https://scf-springfd19.eventbrite.com.au>

Enquiries to Kathi McDonald kathi.mcdonald@scfarmers.org.au 0408 418 531 or
Nathan Dovey nathan.dovey@scfarmers.org.au 0429 468 030



R&D Trials Update

NATHAN DOVEY, R&D COORDINATOR

Another newsletter is about to be released which means another 3 months of the year have passed in a flash!

All our project assessments and measurements are up to date thanks to the R&D team of John and myself with some help from Sammy! Now, like most farmers, we are waiting for harvest to commence so we can assess the yields and quality data. Following is a short update on some of our main trials from the R&D program.

GRDC Ripper gauge trials

Goat family - South Stirlings

This trial site was sown to canola in 2019 is in its second year of three. Penetrometer data collected by John is suggesting soil strength differences between the most extreme ripping depth, 65cm with the Tilco, and the untreated control only. Looking forward to measuring yield at harvest. With Phil Honey recently appointed by SCF, we look forward to deeper analysis of all trials that we have harvest yield monitor data collected. This site will be no exception.

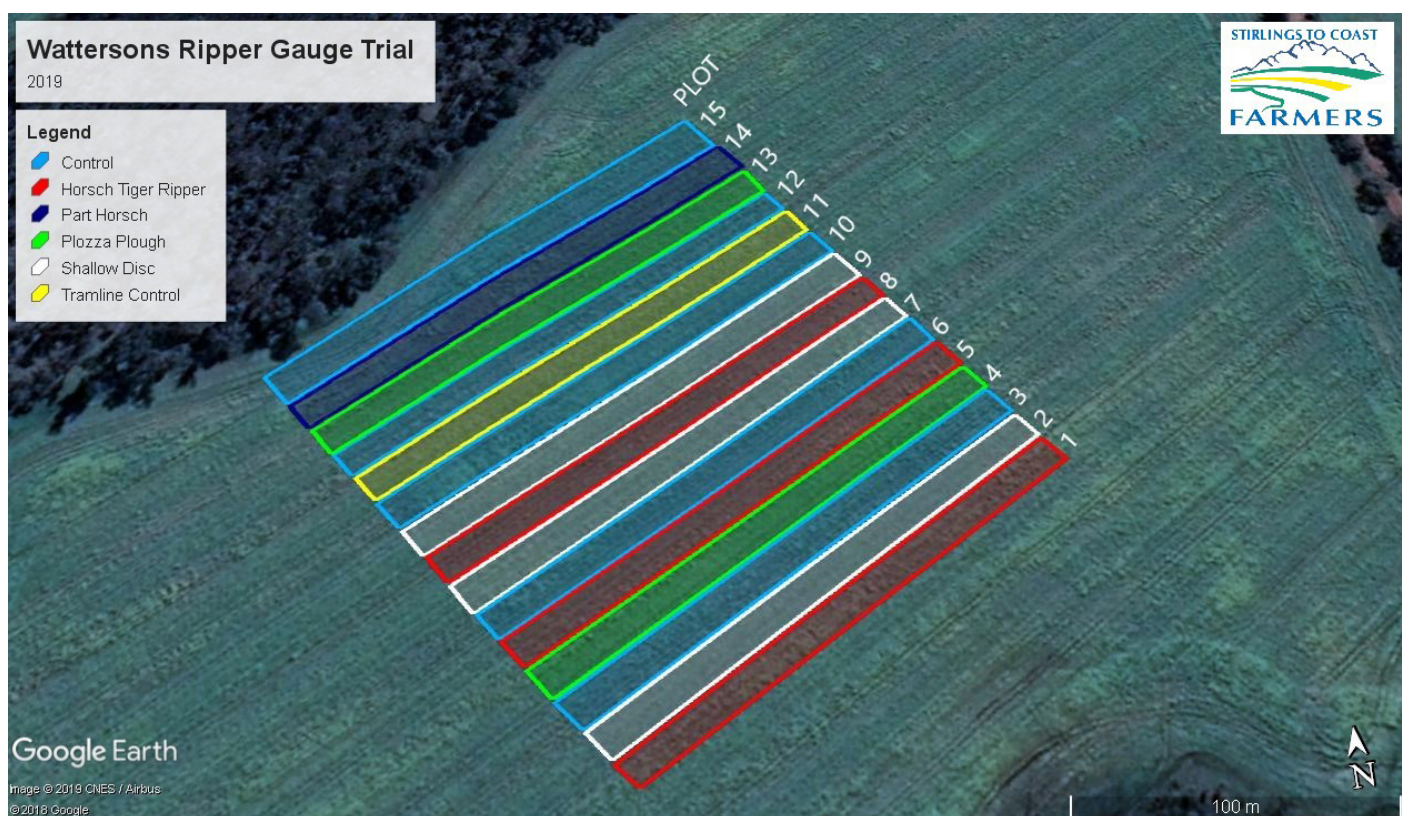
Watterson Family - Tenterden

For those that viewed this site on the 5th of September we were looking to alleviate the non-wetting topsoil more than alleviate compaction. This is a gravelly soil with increasing percentages at depth. The treatments from the Horsch Tiger Ripper and the Plozza Plough looked to have increased non-wetting because the plants numbers and crop biomass were lower than the untreated control. Final yield will tell us how much, but we look forward to monitoring this site over another 1-2 years to see if there are longer term benefits or not.

GRDC Legume demonstration trials

Amelup Estate - Amelup

We have a successful looking legume demonstration site at Amelup with Lupins, Lentils, Field peas and Chickpeas growing well. We have an afternoon field walk coming up in October which will hopefully attract some of our more northern SCF members. We are also inviting members from the North Stirlings Pallinup Group and Gillami to attend so we look



forward to seeing some new faces. The legumes are nodulating well but not podding up as we would like right now. It could be because 'Jack Frost' visited recently and we can check that next time I download the onsite temperature data logger.

Stanich Family - Gnowellen

This site has also been touched up by frost and it will also be interesting to check the temperature data from the 5-6th of September to see. We have Faba beans, Field peas, Lentils and Chickpeas growing here. Locals in the area would also be acutely aware of the dry season which will also limit yield potential. The surrounding crop here, and at Amelup, is canola and we will compare the pulse yields to the canola in our analysis.

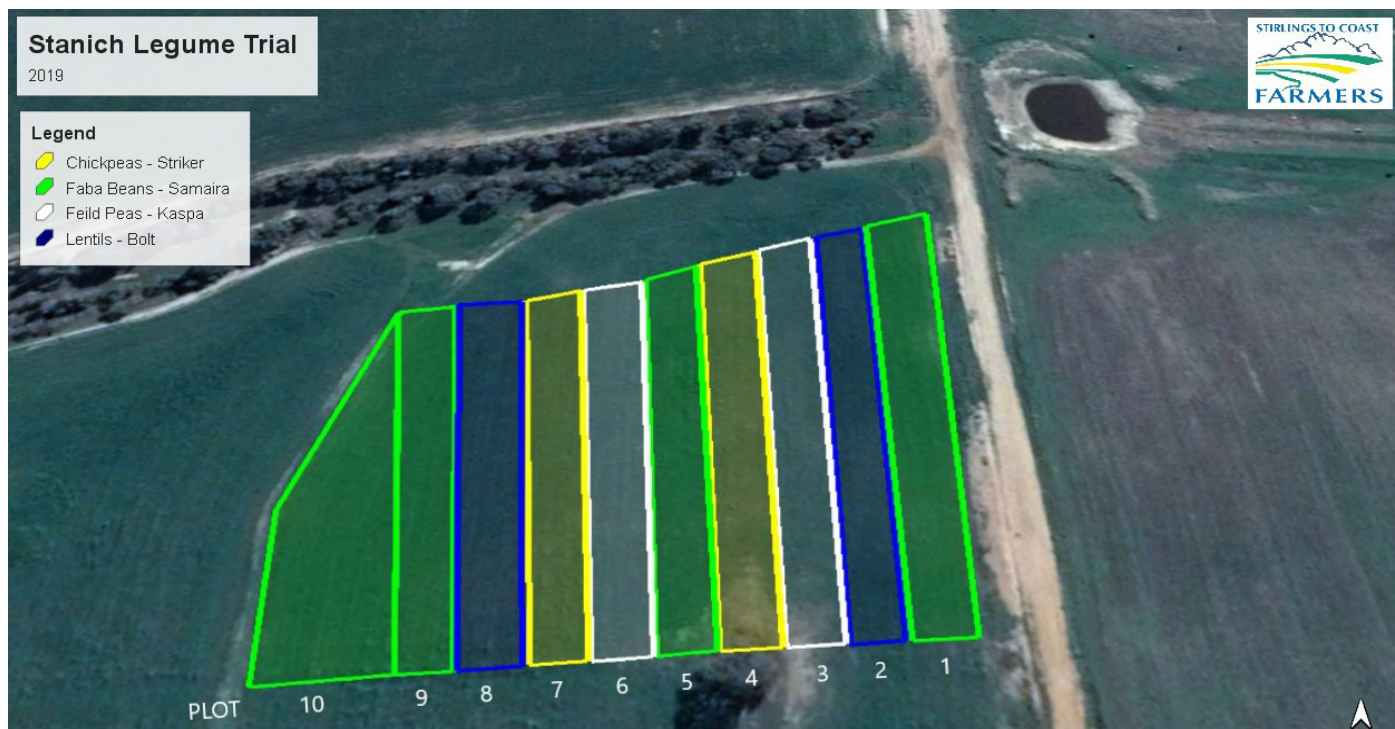
Slattery Family - Kojaneerup

Last years legume site hosted by Mark Slattery has been sown to barley in 2019. We plan to collect the grain yields of the barley sown over the top of

the different legume crops in 2018. Therefore, we can assess if the different legumes had a better or worse effect on the following crop. We have also collected soil test results before seeding to measure nitrogen levels in each plot.

Hilder Family - Frankland

This is not officially a demonstration site in 2019. However, it is interesting to note that Simon Hilder sees potential in Faba beans due to their ability to withstand waterlogging, which we observed in 2018. DPIRD are running a Faba bean plot trial at the Hilder's this year in a paddock of lupins. Simon Hilder also planted an air-seeder strip of Faba beans from last years seed to re-assess their fit for his farm. As you can see from the photo's they are growing extremely well. If the frost hasn't done too much damage, they should have a profitable yield. Especially if the price is as high as 2018.



GRDC Non-wetting trials

Anthony and Murray Hall - West Kendenup

With the enthusiasm of Anthony Hall, we have set up three simple trials looking at the effect of adding two litres of SE14 per one tonne of seed to see if it helped germination numbers in non-wetting soils. We looked at three different crops in canola, oats and wheat. SCF completed comprehensive plant counts, of each crop, after seeding to see if we could measure a difference between 2Lt/tonne of SE14 and the untreated control (UTC). We also broke down the plant counts into separate growth stages to analyse the results more deeply.

The results presented below are the total plant counts from one metre of planted row. SCF will present more detailed analysis later. Plant counts show no significant differences between seed treated with 2Lt/tonne of SE14 and the untreated grain.

Table 1: Mean plant counts from one metre of planted row (1m/row) for wheat, oats and canola from Anthony and Murray Halls property at West Kendenup. The canola has data from two separate dates because of a rainfall event after July 5th, 2019. Means followed by same letter or symbol do not significantly differ (P=0.05, LSD)

Treatment	Wheat	Oats	Canola Count July 5	Canola Count July 12
SE14	16.7 a	32.2 a	11.0 a	13.3 a
UTC	18.7 a	38.7 a	10.8 a	14.0 a
LSD P=0.05	3.5	7.3	3.7	2.6
Standard Deviation	2.4	5.1	2.2	1.5

GRDC- Snail roller and grain cleaner trials

In late June Nathan and Alaina Smith in conjunction with the Smith family at Green Range conducted comprehensive testing to remove small conical snails from canola grain. Thankyou to CBH for providing the grain for SCF to use. We were unable to complete testing on wheat or barley at this time because we could not access cereal grain with adequate snail numbers.

In June we tested a 4-barrelled DE rotary grain cleaner to remove the small conical snails with two different screen sizes (2.2mm and 2.5mm slotted screen). We also tested how well the snail roller crushed snails and removed snails from the sample and the effects of this process on grain quality.

Nathan and Alaina will present full details of this trial work at the SCF Spring Field Day.





SCF meet with federal Dept of Ag and DPIRD Trade and Development to discuss export snail thresholds

Alaina Smith

In late August SCF growers and staff met with Ray Elson, National Manager of Grain Exports at the Federal Department of Agriculture, and Fiona Goss, Trade Development Officer for DPIRD, to learn more about export and import requirements for snails in grain and how it relates to the use of snail crushing grain rollers. Brendan Simmonds, CBH Terminal Quality Coordinator, and Svetlana Micic, DPIRD Entomologist, also attended the meeting.

While growers will be aware of the grain receival standards determined by GIWA each season, grain exported overseas is subject to both Australian export tolerances and import tolerances imposed by the destination country.

Australia's export tolerance for snails is 2 live field species per 2.25L sample. However, the importing country's tolerance will always take precedence. China's current tolerance, for example, is 1 live snail per 2.25L sample, so that is the threshold adhered to for grain exports to China. More information about export thresholds is provided in a DPIRD fact sheet following this article.

WA makes up 80% of barley exports to China so it is an important market to protect. At the meeting we learnt that small conical snails are not present in China which is why they are subject to strict quarantine laws. Our wheat and barley exports to China move throughout the country to flour mills and feedlots so there is a risk of any live snails entering their agricultural areas and becoming a pest.

We presented photos and results from our canola cleaning trial where we used a rotary grain cleaner and snail roller to remove snails from 150t of canola. We provided the group with cleaned and unclean grain samples and they were impressed with the number of snails we had removed from the canola.

Growers at the meeting said that they understood the need to protect our valuable export markets but expressed their frustration at the added cost and difficulty of managing snails in crops and cleaning grain at harvest.

Following our meeting with Dept of Agriculture, Darren Moir met with CBH directors Trevor Badger and Wally Newman, and later, Albany Port Zone Manger, Adam Wray, and General Manager of Marketing and Trading, Jason Craig. Darren reiterated the seriousness of the snail issue and the need for CBH to have a back-up

plan if growers had large volumes of grain that they could not deliver under the tighter receival standards. CBH have made it clear that they are aware of the potential for snails being a problem this coming harvest and have a plan in place to manage the issue. This will include the use of stack averaging and the possibility of introducing a separate stack with a higher limit. However, they cautioned growers to take steps to clean their grain prior to delivering it to CBH as the discount for delivering grain with large numbers of snails would likely be high.

SCF and Rod Grieve have performed an economic analysis to compare the cost of cleaning snails out of grain. This will be presented at the Spring Field Day on the 26th of September and in fact sheets to be released before harvest.

We would like to thank Fiona Goss (DPIRD) and Rob Dickie (CBH) for their assistance in organising the meeting with the federal Dept. of Agriculture. In addition, thank you to Darren Moir for attending the meeting, as a representative of the SCF Commodities Committee, and Mark Adams and Scott Smith for providing a grower's perspective.

Alaina Smith, Ray Elson (Dept. of Ag) and Brendon Simmons (CBH) compare snail numbers in cleaned and uncleaned canola samples from the recent SCF cleaning trial. Results from the trial will be presented at the Spring Field Day.



Finding solutions for managing net blotch

MEGAN JONES, CCDM

Is net blotch affecting your barley this season? If yes, then the Centre for Crop and Disease Management (CCDM) wants to hear from you.



CCDM is calling on growers from the Stirlings to Coast Farmers group to join their Barley Disease Cohort Project, and help create regionally relevant solutions for managing both net form and spot form net blotch – two diseases recently identified as fungicide resistant in these Southern regions.

Growers in the Cohort will be part of a cycle of co-innovation with the CCDM, sharing experiences and knowledge with researchers, and helping to find out exactly where resistance is occurring so CCDM can carry out field trials to develop solutions to managing the growing problem.

Project leader Lorenzo Covarelli said up until now, fungicide resistance research at the CCDM has mainly been carried out through a nation-wide approach, but this project was a little different, as it will connect CCDM researchers directly with a group of growers in a particular region.

“We’re anticipating that data collected from year one will inform grower decisions in the project’s second year, and data from year two, will inform decisions in its third, and so on,” he said.

“Not only does this project involve the benchmarking of fungicide resistance of barley net blotches in the cohort’s region, but also analysis of the decision-making behind managing fungicide resistance, hoping to see positive changes on how decisions are made from new data available.”

The project focuses on net blotch of barley – both spot-form and net-form – as these diseases have recently been established as evolving fungicide resistance to several Group 3 DMI fungicides in both the Esperance and Albany Port Zones.

“When we know where fungicide resistance occurs and how growers are managing it, we can work together to develop long term solutions to managing this complex problem, in a regionally relevant way,” Lorenzo said.

Cohort members will work with CCDM by:

- Sending in diseased barley leaves for fungicide resistance research.
- Answering survey questions on management decisions.
- Being part of a yearly cycle of co-innovation with CCDM researchers in helping to find solutions to managing fungicide resistance.

Sampling kits are now available. If you’re interested in being involved, please contact Megan Jones at the CCDM on megan.d.jones@curtin.edu.au, or for more info visit www.ccdm.com.au/cohortproject



▲ Net form net blotch

▲ Spot form net blotch

▼ The CCDM project team (L-R): Lorenzo Covarelli, Fran Lopez-Ruiz, Mark Gibberd and Megan Jones



Introducing our new staff members...

NEW STAFF AT SCF

Taryn Graham - Bookkeeper

In July, I was fortunate enough to be welcomed into the SCF team in the capacity of Bookkeeper, 2 days a week.

I bring with me more than 25 years experience in bookkeeping and administration roles and have a real passion for small business. I thoroughly enjoy the work I do, as reflected in one of my favourite quotes 'Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life'. I'm looking forward to utilising my skills in my new position as I get to know my colleagues and the industry we benefit.

A bit about myself outside of work - I was born and raised in Albany and have a strong history and understanding of the Great Southern region. I love to spend time with family and friends, whether it be watching footy together in Winter or barbecues in Summer. I enjoy the endless fun and adventure (and sometimes chaos) that comes with being a devoted Mum of two teenage daughters, who constantly keep me on my toes. We are fortunate enough to live close to our beautiful beaches, so you'll often find us enjoying the wonders of our South Coast.

I am thoroughly enjoying being part of the SCF team. I know it's a very busy time coming up for everyone, and I look forward to meeting you all very soon.

Taryn

M: 0417 179 175 E: finance@scfarmers.org.au



Philip Honey - Smart Farms Coordinator

I'm Phil, and I am excited to have joined Stirlings to Coast as the new Smart Farms Coordinator, where it will be my job to coordinate the development of the SCF Smart Farm Demonstration Sites and test the digital tools being developed to help make farming decisions easier.

I originally come from a farming background, where my sister and I were raised on a mixed crop & livestock operation & hay contracting business managed by my mother in Dalyup, located just 50kms west of Esperance. I was locally schooled in Esperance and partook a gap-year experience, working for a local fertilizer company and also a precision agriculture business for the remainder of the year.

Farming and technology have always been a great passion to me, which led me to complete a Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences at University of Adelaide and a Masters of Environmental Science (Geographic Information Sciences) at University of New England a year later.



For the past few years, I've been assisting farmers and consultants throughout WA & SA in their precision ag journey: making yield & variable rate maps, as well as satellite NDVI processing & Waterflow/elevation mapping, and general farm paddock planning & data management. Most recently I've also been helping farmers get better access to internet to and across farms, with customised connectivity & WiFi solutions, as well as installing farm IoT technology such as weather stations, soil moisture probes & tank-monitoring solutions.

I really am looking forward to sharing the smart-farms journey and successes with you all and look forward to meeting you all....and if you have any potential research ideas or technology that you would like tested, please do not hesitate to contact me. Fingers crossed for a happy, stress-free harvest.

Kind Regards

Philip Honey, Smart Farms Coordinator

0428 768 589 philip.honey@scfarmers.org.au

Snail Tolerances in Western Australian Export Grain - September 2019

The following summary provides Western Australian (WA) grain growers with information on snail tolerances for export of wheat, barley, and canola as they relate to:

1. Western Australian grain receival standards
2. Australian export requirements and inspections
3. Importing country requirements

This information is being provided as part of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) WA Snail Mitigation Project, which supports maintained market access for grain into WA's key export markets by conducting research on best practise snail mitigation strategies, and supporting grower extension to reduce snail contamination in grain delivered to WA bulk storage and handlers.

WA Grain Receival Standards

In WA, grain receival standards including snail tolerances are set by the Grain Industry Association of WA. It is important to note that the WA snail tolerances (number) and associated definitions of a snail (species, alive, dead, whole / piece, shell / body etc) may vary across different commodities and grades.

Table 1: 2019 GIWA Western Australian snail tolerances for various commodities and grades

Commodity / Grade	Number	Definition
Barley per ½ litre sample		
MALT1, MALT2	NIL	Live or dead
BFED1, BFDEC	1	ONE = more than half a shell Fragments are acceptable
Wheat per ½ litre sample		
H1, H2, APWN, APW1, APW2, ASW1, ANW1, AUH2	1	Whole snail shell
ANW2, AGP1, AUN1, AUW1, FED1	10	
Canola per 500g sample		
CAN1, CAG1, CAN2, CAG2	1	Live or Dead
CAGS, CANS (SNAIL OFFGRADE)	10	ONE = whole snail or pieces more than half, or a snail body without a shell less than 10mm in size A snail is defined as greater than 10mm if it is a whole snail shell or non-whole piece of snail shell that cannot fit through a 10-millimetre hole. All non-whole or broken pieces that are less than or equal to half a snail are classified as admixture Snails greater than 10mm will remain a level three (3) contaminant and the load rejected on delivery

Source: Grain Industry Association of WA [FINAL GIWA Standards Review 2018](#)



AUSTRALIAN EXPORT REQUIREMENTS AND INSPECTIONS

Federal Department of Agriculture Plant Export Operations Manual

To ensure exported grain meets importing country requirements for non-injurious pests, including snails, the Federal Department of Agriculture provides inspection instructions on tolerances through its Plant Export Operations Manual to its Authorised Officers.

Australia's current export tolerance for snails is not more than TWO live field species in any single 2.25 Litre sample

The Role of an Authorised Officer

Authorised Officers (AOs) are trained and assessed individuals who are appointed under the Export Control Act 1982 to perform specific export inspection functions such as ensuring empty containers and/or vessel holds meet required standards and prescribed goods (plants and plant products) exported from Australia comply with legislative requirements. When undertaking these functions, AOs are regarded as Australian Government officials.

IMPORTING COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS

Importing country requirements that must be met by exporters and the Federal Department of Agriculture are set out in the Manual of Importing Country Requirements (MICOR).

Tolerance levels imposed by an importing country take precedence over any tolerances listed in the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Plant Export Operations Manual, and are not always the same.

With WA barley and canola exports valued at nearly \$1 billion each in 2017/2018 it's important to understand importing country requirements for these commodities in our key export markets.

For China, importing requirements are specified under the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Australian Wheat and Barley Imports into China. The protocol refers to snails as a pest of quarantine concern and expects Australia to continue to minimise snails.

Supporting the China protocol, is an Australian Industry Management Plan (IMP) for Australian Wheat and Barley Exports to China, owned and authored by the Grain Industry Market Access Forum.

To minimise snails in wheat and barley exported to China, the current tolerance in the Industry Management Plan is set at ONE live snail per 2.25 Litre sample

All exporters to China must provide a signed declaration to a Department of Agriculture Authorised Officer prior to inspection attesting that "The consignment complies with the Industry Management Plan to supply wheat and barley to the Chinese Market and a stock selection process and/or other actions were undertaken to minimise the level of pests of quarantine concern to China."

This communication has been endorsed by WA Snail Mitigation Taskforce members, specifically:

- Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia
- Department of Agriculture, Canberra
- Grain Industry Market Access Forum
- Grain Industry Association of Western Australia
- Storage and Handlers – CBH and Bunge

Additional Resources:

For further information on WA Grain Receival Standards visit GIWA <http://www.giwa.org.au/standards>

For further information on Australian exporting requirements visit Department of Agriculture website Plant Export Operations Manual <http://agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/plants-plant-products/plantexportsmanual>

For further information on importing country requirements including China's visit Department of Agriculture website MICOR or Manual of Importing Country Requirements <http://agriculture.gov.au/export/micor>

DPIRD Contact:

Ms Fiona Goss, Agribusiness, Food and Trade, Department Primary Industries and Regional Development, Western Australia

fiona.goss@dpird.wa.gov.au



Life memberships awarded at 10th Anniversary Celebration



THE SILO BAR WAS A POPULAR FOCAL POINT OF THE EVENING!

Life membership of Stirlings to Coast Farmers was awarded to long standing Board members Mal Thomson and Ken Drummond for their continuous service to the Board since the group's inception.

SCF CEO, Christine Kershaw, announced the awards at the recent SCF 10th Anniversary Celebration.

"The awards are an important recognition of those valuable members of SCF and its Board who have displayed outstanding commitment to the group's ongoing success", she said.

Christine said Mal had been and still was a key contributor to SCF. Mal has previously served on the R&D Committee as well as being one of the original Management Committee/Board members. He is currently an active member of the SCF East Group and was a key driver in organising last year's 'Ride and Drive' Spray Day.

Ken is the current Chair of SCF. He is also active on the Finance and Governance Committee and Commodities Committee and has been involved in all aspects of SCF over the years, from R&D to the Co-operative project.

The 10th Anniversary Celebration was held on Friday August 9 at long standing SCF members Mark and Heather Adams 'Yaralla' property. With over 85 members and friends coming together, there was plenty of great conversation, food and music with band, the Beardless Hipsters, helping rock the night away!

It was great to be able to get together and celebrate all the group has achieved over the past 10 years - here's to 10 more!



▲ The current SCF Board (L-R) Ian Evans, David Brown, Sandy Forbes, Mark Preston, Darren Moir, Clair Webster, Mal Thomson and Ken Drummond (Chair). Vice Chair Jon Beasley was unable to attend the evening.



▲ SCF Chair, Ken Drummond, receiving his Life Membership from CEO Christine Kershaw.



▲ R&D Consultant, John Blake, manning the silo bar at the start of the evening.



▲ SCF members, staff and friends enjoying an evening of fun and reminiscing.



▲ L-R John Moore (DPIRD), Ian Mackie and Sandy Forbes catching up.



▲ Board member, Mal Thomson, receiving his Life Membership from SCF Chair, Ken Drummond.



▲ The Beardless Hipsters helping everyone rock the night away.



▲ L-R Christine Howard, Jo Slattery, Clare Webster, John Howard and John Hood making good use of the Silo Bar!

Crop Nutrition Field Day

NATHAN DOVEY, R&D COORDINATOR

On Thursday the 5th of September 30 SCF members and partners met at the Nunijup Hall for a half day event looking at some of our GRDC projects as well as a couple of sponsors trials. The first speaker was Jeremy Lemon from DPIRD discussing the ROSA tool they have developed. Ranking options for soil amelioration (ROSA) is a decision support tool intended for use by consultants, agronomists and growers to indicate soil amendment options that are likely to provide the biggest economic return for growers with multiple soil constraints.

ROSA provides a cost-effectiveness ranking of soil amelioration options to address one or more soil constraints within a farm business. It highlights the potential cost-effectiveness of one or more soil ameliorants in the short and long-term at a paddock or farm scale. Costs and benefits of amelioration options, and combinations, are accrued at different points in time over a 10-year period. To access the ROSA tool please get in touch with Jeremy Lemon via email at Jeremy.lemon@dpiird.wa.gov.au or phone on (08) 9892 8413

Our second speaker for the day was Wayne Pluske from Equii consulting. Wayne is a soils nutrition expert and outlined three new GRDC projects that have begun in WA that will help address some pertinent issues. Three projects are:

- Nutrient re-distribution and availability in ameliorated and cultivated soils in the Western Region (led by DPIRD)
- Increasing profits from fertiliser inputs in a range of emerging crop sequences (led by UWA)
- Improving soil sampling methods to better predict soil nutrient availability and supply (led by CSIRO)

Audience feedback on the GRDC funded projects was positive with many looking forward to hearing and seeing the results in the coming years.

After the two 'inside' presentations it was time to move into the field to catch some sunshine. The first stop was our GRDC funded Ripper Gauge project hosted by Lindsay Watterson. The visit specifically looked at the effects of the Plozza plough (30cm depth) and the Horsch Tiger Ripper which was kindly donated by AFGRI back in early April.

The gravelly soil is non-wetting on the surface, and we wanted to see if soil inversion or mixing decreases the non-wetting nature. Observations indicate that soil disturbance has exacerbated the non-wetting topsoil because both the Plozza and Horsch Tiger have less biomass and plant numbers than the untreated control. We will measure the yields at harvest and report the results to SCF members as soon as they are available. Importantly, we will also measure grain yields in the 2020 season to gain an understanding of the soil amelioration impacts over time.

The second field stop was a DPIRD small plot Faba bean trial hosted by the Hilder family in Frankland. Mark Seymour presented at the trial site explaining the different treatments on the Samira and Bendoc varieties. DPIRD are investigating the effectiveness of new rhizobia inoculum strains in comparison to double rates of the standard inoculum. There were also some comparisons between different broadleaf control herbicides on the two varieties.

Inspired by last years, legumes demonstration in a nearby paddock, Simon Hilder planted a small area of Samira Faba beans with his air-seeder to see how they performed in 2019. The rest of Simons paddock was sown to lupins and both legumes have great yield potential. Hopefully the frosts experienced that night did not do too much damage to the trial plots or Simons crop.

The final field stop was a canola plot trial being managed by CSBP. Keith Gundil explained that canola requires 80 units of nitrogen (N) for every tonne of canola grain. At this site the target yield is 3tn/ha, which means the canola requires 240 units of N to be supplied by the soil and through fertiliser. The treatments explored various methods and timings of supplying N such as banding at seeding, flexi-N applications and banding in-crop. The trial included the same N applications applied by the farmer, so we can benchmark his regime with the trial results.

The afternoon finished with a quick summary from Tristan Wilson-Kerrigan on long-season winter type canola varieties that Pacseeds are developing. Many readers are familiar with the clearfield winter canola variety Hyola 970. Pacseeds are working on similar varieties that are better suited to WA conditions to be released in the coming years.

Finally, despite some people heading home and watch the mighty West Coast Eagles take on Essendon, we enjoyed a BBQ dinner back at the Nunijup Hall that was provided by the Nunijup progress association. Thankyou to the volunteers who provided a sensational dinner for us all. The highlight was the fruit salad and ice-cream on top of tasty burgers, salads and sausage in a bun. Thankyou to all presenters and the people who came along to the afternoon.



Crop Nutrition Field Day - Photos



▲ An 'eye in the sky' view of the recent SCF Crop Nutrition Field Day

▼ DPIRD's Jeremy Lemon in his natural environment - a soil pit!



▲ Wayne Pluske (EQUUI) presenting at the Crop Nutrition Day on three new GRDC projects in the crop nutrition area (see article)



Field day participants gathered around a soil pit at the ripping trial at Lindsay Watterson's



NLP2 Future farmers student connect program update

SCF attends Denmark College Open Day

Stirlings to Coast Farmers attended the Denmark Open day on Saturday the 31st of August. Weather was inclement however after one shower it fined up. SCF exhibited a small stall that was set up in the classroom alongside the Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee. SCF enjoys partnering with the school and in particular connecting with the students to enhance their learning experience and offer them the opportunity to create connections to passionate individuals active in the Ag industry.

The classroom was brightened up with many displays the students had created about their subjects. Some of these included Maths, English, Farm biosecurity, Farm safety and Forestry. The event was much bigger than expected. With such a diverse group of people attending the day there was plenty of interaction with a couple of prospective new members. It was a great day out and very much enjoyed by all.



DENMARK STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL HAY CROP

SCF STAND AT THE WA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE DENMARK OPEN DAY



FERTILISER TREATMENT STRIPS AT THE KALGAN TRIAL SITE AS VIEWED BY STUDENTS FROM GSG



Great Southern Grammar students visit Kalgan Trial site

On Friday the 30th August, 13 Grammar Ag students from year 11 and 12 visited the Kalgan trial site. Rain did cause a few issues with a 10 min interlude back on the bus however this still was a great opportunity for the students to get out of the classroom and see an established trial.

First up the students looked at a pasture trial which had received 370kg/ha of Super Copper Zinc Molybdenum at seeding. More recently CSBP had completed some flexi N strips with a 3m boom that showed a clear treatment effect (see picture). Students were able to use the Greensseeker to collect NDVI readings on the different treatments.

The students also observed a Brassica forage of tillage radish that was donated by Tim O'Dea, Heritage Seeds. Along with a winter type canola stand of Hyola 970 donated by Tristan Wilson-Kerrigan, Pacific Seeds. This canola stand has been planted as a feed source for sheep that will hopefully survive over the summerto bridge a bit of the summer autumn feed gap. Hannah Gaffney from Elders also attended the day and highlighted to the students that there are many different ways to enter the Ag industry. Hannah spent 9 years in hairdressing before her career change to selling merchandise and collecting plant samples out in the field for Elders.

Movement of oversize/over-mass agricultural vehicles

In recent months, Main Roads has worked with agricultural industry peak bodies, in an effort to ensure the agricultural industry understood and complied with the legal requirements associated with the movement of oversize / over-mass agricultural vehicles. This included developing easy to follow documentation, clearly outlining the agricultural pilot requirements.

So, did this have the desired outcome? Well ultimately, yes. It helped the agricultural industry to understand the requirements, which resulted in a number of industry representatives expressing their concerns with regard to the “unworkable” pilot requirements. This subsequently resulted in Main Roads conducting a review of the agricultural pilot requirements and developing a new simplified system that provides a fair and reasonable balance between road safety and the efficient movement of agricultural equipment.

What is this new simplified system? Let us first start with some of the main changes and benefits of these new requirements:

- You no longer require a pilot vehicle, outside the Metropolitan Area, until the oversize agricultural vehicle exceeds 3.8 metres, which is an increase from the previous 3.5 metres. This will enable a lot of equipment, such as self-propelled boom sprayers, to be moved without a pilot vehicle;
- An oversize agricultural vehicle can now have a width of up to 8.5 metres while being accompanied by an agricultural pilot. The width was previously restricted to 7.5 metres;
- Oversize agricultural vehicle access in WA has been divided into 3 simple zones. The zones are based on the risk of the road, which then determines the pilot requirements for the particular oversize agricultural vehicle. In the lower risk zones, only one agricultural pilot is required;
- The number of oversize agricultural vehicles allowed to travel in convoy has been increased from two to three; and
- The 100 kilometre limit from the point of origin to the destination when utilising agricultural pilots has been removed.



The key to these new requirements is understanding the different zones. These are the Red Zone, Orange Zone and Green Zone.

The Red Zone is the Perth Metropolitan Area. This is a highly congested area, with significant traffic volumes and is a high-risk zone. The general oversize heavy vehicle pilot requirements apply, which means you cannot use an agricultural pilot in the Red Zone.

The Orange Zone consists of State highways and main roads or Local Government Regional Distributor roads. Although not as busy as the Red Zone, these roads still have considerable traffic volumes, including heavy vehicle traffic and tourist traffic. As such, they are considered to be a medium risk zone and a licensed heavy vehicle pilot is required to adequately manage oncoming traffic. These roads generally have wider road widths, which allow other vehicles to overtake the oversize agricultural vehicle; therefore, a rear agricultural pilot is required to manage the traffic at the rear. For the agricultural vehicles over 6.5 metres in width, an additional agricultural pilot is required. However, there are some exceptions.

The rear agricultural pilot is not required if the oversize agricultural vehicle is only travelling a maximum distance of 5km on an Orange Zone road. Further to this, the Licensed Heavy Vehicle Pilot may drive the lead oversize agricultural vehicle, rather than being in the pilot vehicle itself. The Licensed Heavy Vehicle Pilot will still be responsible for overseeing the pilot operations and ensuring the pilots are doing their job correctly, but this means the farmer can be the holder of the Heavy Vehicle Pilot Licence and still drive the expensive agricultural machine.

The Green Zone consists of roads that are generally used by local traffic and have relatively low traffic volumes. These are considered the lower risk roads and many of the road users will be familiar with the movement of agricultural equipment. On these roads, only a single agricultural pilot is required when moving an agricultural vehicle up to 8.5 metres wide.

It is extremely easy if you can stay within a Green Zone. You can even travel on an Orange Zone road for up to 1km when moving from one Green Zone to another, without any change to the pilot requirements. The ‘gate to gate’ provision allowing movement for up to 1 km without a pilot, subject to traffic management, still applies on all Local Government roads. The traffic management is not onerous: it is only four prescribed roadside warning signs.

These new requirements have been developed with the assistance of the agricultural industry peak bodies. A clear map depicting the three zones is currently being developed and will be available on the RAV Mapping Tool on the Main Roads website. The following Agricultural Pilot Requirements Flow Chart provides details of the pilot requirements. Further details on the requirements associated with moving oversize / over-mass agricultural vehicles are available on the “Agricultural Vehicle” page on the Main Roads website.

Rabobank News - 'More smoke, less fire' ahead for Australia Ag land prices

The heat is set to come out of Australia's agricultural land market – with increased property availability and decreasing farm operating profits forecast to slow price growth in the coming 18 months – according to a recently-released report.

In its annual Australian Agricultural Land Price Outlook, titled More Smoke, Less Fire, Rabobank says agricultural land price growth is set to slow in the next 18 months – especially in the eastern states as the effects of drought impact the market.

Agricultural land prices, the report says, have increased by a compound annual growth rate of seven per cent over the past five years, with particularly strong growth over the past two years as a string of favourable seasons have driven farm business operating profits to 20-year highs across many regions and commodities.

However, the past 12 months have seen a divergence in the primary drivers of ag land prices across the nation, according to report author, Rabobank agricultural analyst Wes Lefroy, with a distinct difference emerging between the drought-affected eastern states and the west and south of the country, which have experienced better rainfall.

"While ongoing strong demand for agricultural land has continued to accelerate price growth in Western and South Australia, in the drought-affected eastern states, a shortage of properties on the market has primarily been supporting price growth," he said. "Many would-be sellers in these areas have chosen to hold on to land until conditions improve and this has effectively created a 'liquidity squeeze' in the agricultural land market in these regions."

That said, across the country, a fall in agricultural land prices is considered unlikely, the report says, with farmers' balance sheets remaining generally strong, and with support from a number of macro-economic factors. These include a low and falling cost of funds, a weak and falling currency and a favourable price outlook for most commodities.

Strong outlook for the west

In the west of the country, Mr Lefroy says continued strong demand for rural property will maintain robust price growth, albeit on slightly softer trajectory.

During 2018, the report found price growth of agricultural land in Western Australia was among the strongest in the country, up 28 per cent (based on the Rabobank Farmland Index**) – compared to the national average of 15 per cent.

"For WA, 2018 was the latest in a string of high-production years, which, alongside record grain prices, fuelled farmer operating profits and confidence. This resulted in strong demand for agricultural land and saw a sustained increase in prices," Mr Lefroy said.

By region, price growth was particularly strong in the Central West region, he said, with the median land price (excluding improvements) tracking close to \$3000/arable hectare. In the Great Southern region, the rate of growth was comparatively slower (albeit positive), with the



WESLEY LEFROY

median land price now approaching \$4000/arable hectare.

"Looking ahead, land price growth is expected to show signs of slowing, albeit from record high levels," he said.

With there being little foreseen change in the number of properties hitting the market, Mr Lefroy said listings were expected to be particularly 'slim' for prime farm land.

"With sales of premium properties so rare, demand will continue to filter down to mid- and low-tier properties, as farmers continue to adjust their focus in search of the best value," he said.

"And with the market remaining so tight, we expect to see farmers looking beyond their region to achieve scale. With this trend expected to become more widespread over the next 18 months."

Ag land versus other asset classes

The report also analysed the capital appreciation of ag land compared to other asset classes, with the report finding agricultural land to have appreciated at a faster rate than most other asset classes over the past five years.

"The five-year compound annual rate of return for Australian agricultural land is ahead of most other asset classes, including residential housing prices, the S&P 500 Index and the ASX All Ordinaries," Mr Lefroy said.

And agricultural land is expected to remain attractive to investors in the medium term.

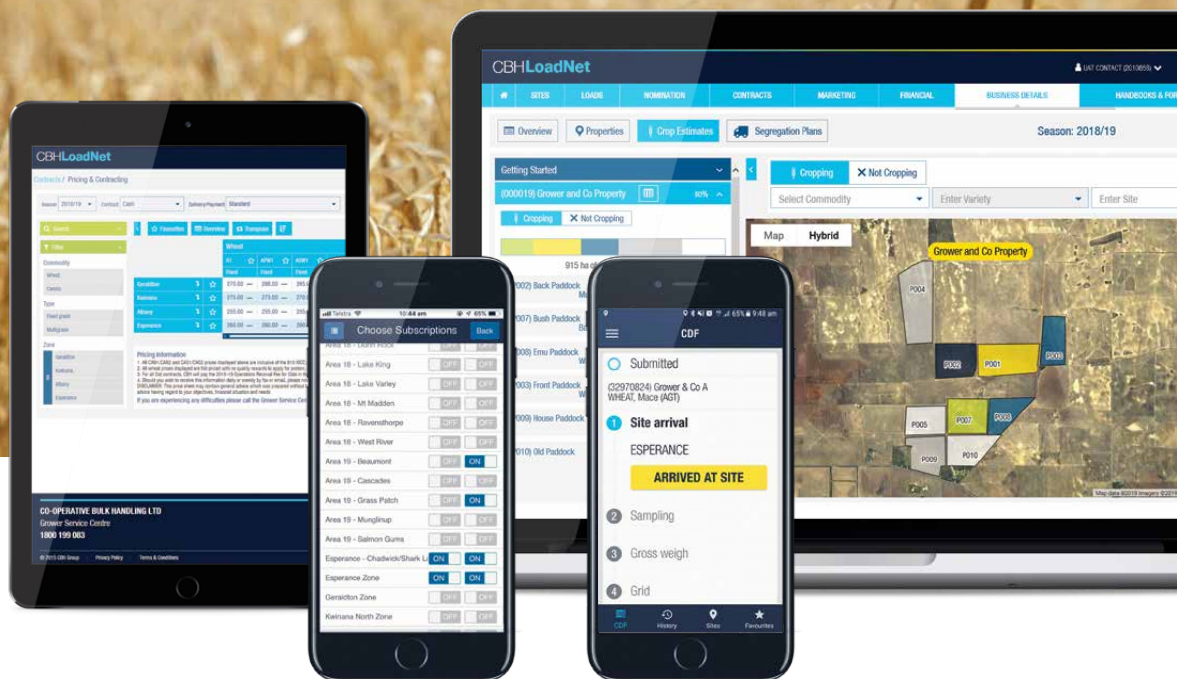


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Grain Growers News - Innovation Generation 2019



BEHIND AUSTRALIAN GRAIN

GrainGrowers is excited to announce the launch of a project called Behind Australian Grain – the development of a grains sustainability framework in partnership with the Australian grains industry, its customers and farming communities.

Like other agricultural sectors, the Australian grains industry needs to be proactive. Behind Australian Grain will assess the economic, social and environmental sustainability challenges that our industry is facing – both existing and emerging – and collectively agree on goals for the future.

We look forward to growing together sustainably and inviting our industry and the public to get Behind Australian Grain. More details about Behind Australian Grain are available at <https://www.graingrowers.com.au/sustainability/grains-sustainability-framework/>.

AUSTRALIAN GRAIN LEADERS PROGRAM

The Australian Grain Leaders Program (AGLP) is a national leadership program designed specifically for emerging leaders in the grains industry. The program develops leadership skills, knowledge and potential. The AGLP is designed to give individuals that helping hand necessary to develop, implement and evaluate their own project.

The AGLP provides the ongoing support of a trained program facilitator and is open to people under 40 years of age working in the whole of the supply chain in the Australian grains industry.

Applications will be sought in September but now is the right time to see if this program suits you, or someone you know will benefit, for 2020. Details of AGLP are at <https://www.graingrowers.com.au/leadership-events/australian-grain-leaders-program/>.

GRAIN GROWERS MEMBERSHIP

Be a part of a truly national organisation and help our industry work at its best. Membership is open to all Australian grain farmers over the age of 18. Membership is free. More information: Alan Meldrum, Regional Coordinator-WA, 0427 384 760

Summit Fertiliser News - Local trial to improve knowledge and quantify soil P



Farming in WA is constantly evolving and refining and as such, we need to continue to assess whether our understanding of nutrition from earlier research is still applicable for today's farming systems.

As part of the process, Summit Fertilizers is collaborating with GRDC and many WA research agencies including DPIRD, University of WA, Murdoch University and CSIRO in a number of exciting new projects. Overall, the focus is on:

- Gaining a better understanding of soil nutrient supply, leading to more efficient fertilizer usage.
- The distribution of nutrients when soils are ameliorated.
- Developing new in-field soil sampling methods.

The biggest of the three soil and nutrition projects outlined above is aimed at improving WA grower profitability through more efficient nutrient use by investigating soil nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) supply.

Summit is now into its second year of P rate trials across the State under the project.

North Stirling Road P Trial

All Stirling's to Coast members that have an interest in P nutrition should be aware that Summit Fertilizers has established a P rate trial locally on the farm of Jeremy Bailey on the North Stirling Road.

Summit Fertilizers is planning to hold a field walk at the trial site in the near future, so interested growers should contact local Area Manager Andrew Wallace, on either mobile 0427 083 820 or email awallace@summitfertz.com.au or Mark Ladny on mobile 0498 223 421 or email mladny@summitfertz.com.au



Herbicide Resistance Testing for 2019



SCF 2019 Herbicide Resistance Testing Registration

SCF will again be coordinating herbicide resistance sampling and testing for members in 2019 on a similar basis to previous seasons. Growers pay full costs and the job will get done in a timely and efficient manner. Samplers are paid to collect and submit the samples, and do the paperwork

- The samples will be sent to Charles Sturt University for testing
- There will be a fixed set of herbicides tested – as below
- Additional herbicides can be nominated by the grower for \$35 extra each
- Results will be collated and shared anonymously

Approximate costs are Ryegrass \$490 and Radish \$450 per sample (incl GST).

Ryegrass herbicides will be 2 rates of glyphosate and one rate of trifluralin, atrazine, clethodim, Factor, Boxer Gold and paraquat.

Radish samples will be screened for one rate of glyphosate, 2,4-D, diflufenican, bromoxynil, Intervix and atrazine.

Please indicate the number of paddocks you would like tested.

Number of RYEGRASS samples

Number of RADISH samples

Trading Name

Contact Name

Email

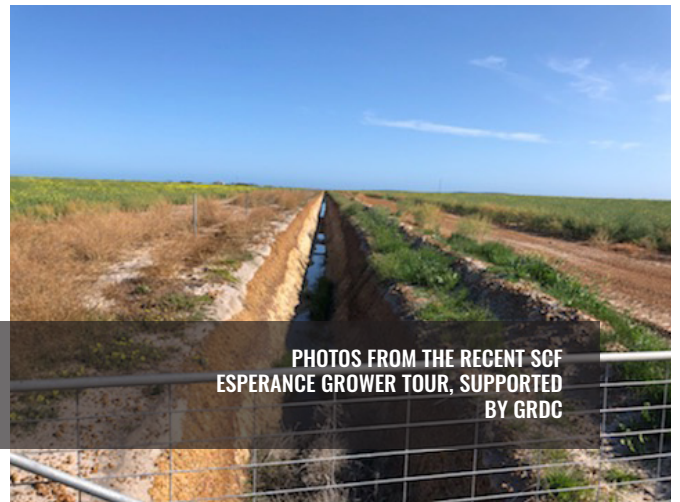
Phone

Signature Date

When completed, please return to Alaina Smith, SCF Research Officer at:

alaina.smith@scfarmers.org.au

Photo Gallery...



PHOTOS FROM THE RECENT SCF
ESPERANCE GROWER TOUR, SUPPORTED
BY GRDC

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- Ian Evans 9842 1267
- Darren Moir 0428 279 256
- Mark Preston 0427 834 200
- Mal Thomson 9854 3038 or 0428 543 038
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