

New Alliance Launched

Twelve SA grower groups have joined forces under the title of the Ag Excellence Alliance (AEA). Formed in April 2005 with support from the National Landcare Community Support Fund, the AEA aims to increase adoption of improved farm management practices through greater collaboration between the groups.

Following a forum of representatives from grower groups and research organisations across SA, a skilled project management team was appointed. This consists of farmers Garry Hansen and Geoff Bammann, agronomists Mick Faulkner and Peter Cousins, farming group specialist Geoff Thomas and SARDI researcher Nigel Wilhelm. The team is chaired by farmer and rural business and training consultant Jeanette Long. The Project coordinator is Michael Richards.

“Surveys show farmers associated with regional farming group projects have improved their farming practices and increased their level of profit,” said Jeanette Long.

“Through the Alliance we want to promote these benefits to more growers both in the region and across the State.”

A major outcome of the forum was to identify areas currently isolated from regional groups; one area was the Lower Eyre Peninsula. Here the AEA has been able to support local farmers to establish the new Lower Eyre Peninsula Grower Group.

Other groups participating in the AEA are Eyre Peninsula Farming Systems, Upper North Farming Systems, Hart Field Site Group, Yorke Peninsula Alkaline Soils Group, Agriculture Kangaroo Island, Mallee Sustainable Farming Project, Mackillop Group, SANTFA, SPAA, Partners in Grain (PING) and Ag Bureau of SA.

The AEA will be bringing many of these groups together at a shared site at the YP Machinery Field Days in September. The AEA's aim is to increase grower awareness of activities occurring across the state and to provide widespread information on improved farming practices. The monthly page in the Stock Journal is one method by which this will be achieved.

For more information about AEA contact Michael Richards (08) 8853-2241 michael.asg@netyp.com.au