

Get the crop in

Hart Fieldsite Group's logo says it is SA premier cropping field site and although the spring field day remains at the heart of Hart's calendar the Fieldsite Group. However, growers many not be aware that Hart coordinates activities throughout the year. March 1st seed the start of a new activity for the Group with a pre-seeding update entitled 'Getting the crop In'.

"Growers have been requesting an update meeting at this time of year, so they can familiarise themselves with the latest results from last year's trials," explained Peter Hooper, research manager for the Hart Fieldsite Group.

'Getting the crop in' will deal with activities at seeding and in-crop agronomy and results from Hart trials such as nitrogen timing and stripe rust control that suggest that in crop management is more important than treatments at seeding.

In the 2005 wheat canopy management trials, two nitrogen rates (30kg/ha and 60kg/ha) were applied as single or split applications at a range of growth stages, to wheat at 120 or 180 plants per metre square.

The grain yield was significantly higher when nitrogen was applied at 1st node (growth stage 31) and in 2005 no advantage was gained from splitting applications. Grain protein increased by 0.7% by delaying nitrogen from sowing until 1st node and further protein increases occurred with the high nitrogen rate. The increase in grain yield was a result of reduced tiller losses increasing the efficiency of crop nitrogen and water use.

No significant difference was recorded between plant density and yield or protein. Grain screening values were below 3% for all treatments and there were no significant differences between treatments.

Managing stripe rust will be one of the topics presented at the 'Getting the crop in' update. This year's wheat fungicide trials tested 11 combinations of fertiliser, seed and foliar fungicide treatments on Krichauff (susceptible to stripe rust) and Yitpi (Moderately resistant to moderately susceptible to stripe rust). Disease symptoms in the trial plots were not extreme but the a single foliar fungicide treatment at early booting (GS43) gave superior stripe rust control, resulting in higher yield and lower screening, compared to the seed or fertiliser dressings tested.

The update will provide the opportunity to focus in detail on results from Hart as well as sharing experience from other areas. NSW grain and cotton grower Scott McCalman from Warren in NSW will share his experience. For full details of the 'Getting the crop in' program see Hart in Around the Region.