



e-news www.agex.org.au

April 2010

e-news is designed to share information and improve linkages between SA Grower Groups, NRM bodies, Researchers and key agricultural stakeholders - *please feel free to share it around to your members and key stakeholders*

[Ag Ex Alliance Annual Forum & Awards](#)

[Mellor Olsson Sponsorship of Stock Journal pages](#)

[Upcoming Grower / NRM / Industry meetings](#)

[MacKillop Precision Spray Day](#)

[Next Gen Project - Youth and Mentors Being Sought](#)

[Royal Adelaide Show - Grains & Fodder](#)

[Grain Marketing in a Deregulated Market](#)

[Partners In Grain Offer Webinar Training](#)

[How to Engage Youth in Agriculture](#)

[SA Rural Leadership Program 2010](#)

[Diary Dates](#)

[Ag Ex Committee & Contacts](#)



Winners of the Elders Ag Excellence Grower Group Award 2010 – SPAA Precision Agriculture Australia.

LtoR Mark Pedlar, Elders National Technical Services Manager, Leighton Pearce, SPAA President Mark Branson, Ag Ex Chairman Mick Faulkner, SPAA's Nicole Dimos, Matt Pointon and Glenn Gale. Leighton, Simon, and Glenn were the judging panel for the Award.

Ag Excellence Alliance Forum & Awards Dinner

The Annual Ag Ex Forum & Awards Dinner was held on Monday March 22nd, 2010 at the Arkaba Hotel and provided an excellent opportunity for Grower Groups to share their key activities over the previous year, and network with various other industry stakeholders and sponsors.

“Working with Multi-Generations In Agriculture” was the theme, with guest speaker Andy Barr providing a light hearted insight into the thoughts and behaviour of three generations, followed by Sharon Honner’s workshop on the same theme. (See notes from Grower Groups on how they encourage involvement of younger farmers later in this E-News)

Winners of the Elders Ag Excellence 2010 Grower Group Award, valued at \$3000, was SPAA Precision Association Australia, and the Northern Sustainable Soils Group received an Encouragement Award.

Ag Ex acknowledges and is very grateful of the support from the following Sponsors to provide this Forum free of charge to attendees;

- * **Platinum & Awards Sponsor – Elders Ltd**
- * **Gold Sponsor - Viterra**
- * **Silver Corporate – Syngas, and PIRSA**
- * **Silver NRM – Adelaide Mount Lofty NRM Board, Eyre Peninsula NRM Board, Northern & Yorke NRM Board, South Australian Murray Darling Basin NRM Board, and the South East NRM Board**
- * **Supporter – DWLBC**

The Ag Ex committee nominations at the close of the Forum farewelled Nigel Wilhelm and Deb Baum from the committee and welcomed Trent Potter and Charlton Jeisman. Full committee details at end of E-news

Mellor Olsson Sponsorship for Ag Ex Stock Journal Page

The first couple of Stock Journal pages generously sponsored by Mellor Olsson Lawyers appeared on March 18th featuring the Upper North Farming Systems, and on April 15th with the lead story from AgKI. Added to these articles is the Around the Regions column for Grower Groups to briefly report on activities.

Mellor Olsson have been working with South Australian businesses for over 100 years and have a history of serving regional communities. They offer one of the most comprehensive legal services in the state.

Members of the firm are willing to participate in city or nearby country region seminars. They are also open to any suggestions Grower Groups may have for topics to be covered in the Stock Journal column. Please mention Ag Excellence Alliance if you should make contact with any of the Mellor Olsson staff.

To find out more about their services and experience check out www.mellorolsson.com.au

Upcoming Grower / NRM / Industry Meetings

Six Ag Ex facilitated meetings will be rolled out over the next couple of months, with the first one in the SA MDB NRM region on Tuesday April 20th, and the second at Struan in the SE NRM region on April 27th. Other meetings will take place in late June, with dates for the Berri (SAMDB), Mallala (AMLR), and Kadina (N&Y) yet to be decided, and June 24th the date for the EP one at Wudinna. A couple of other meetings will follow in early July.

Key growers, NRM personnel, agencies, and other industry stakeholders have been identified locally and invited to attend to discuss current sustainable ag projects, identify any gaps in these projects, and prioritise them. It is hoped that while some organisations will take the lead in “filling these gaps”, others will support through shared knowledge and other resources. Another intended outcome is the increased understanding and engagement of producers in meeting NRM targets.

The Department of Water, Land & Biodiversity Conservation through the Sustainable Dryland Agriculture Initiative and the State Natural Resources Management Program 2009-10, and Primary Industries & Resources SA are funding the meetings.

Anyone keen to be involved can contact Ag Ex Project Manager, Heather Baldock, to ensure an invite.

MacKillop Precision Spray Day April 22nd

The MacKillop Group will be hosting a Precision Spray Application presentation and equipment display on April 22nd at Padthaway Oval. Bill Gordon will commence the day with a presentation on Shielded and Banded spraying which will include information on spray quality, behaviour and nozzles. Various scenarios will be run through and the use of guidance systems and crop row technology will be covered. After lunch there will be the opportunity to view various shielded sprayers and other precision spray equipment at the oval.

Further information and rsvp form available at www.mackillopgroup.com.au or by calling Krysteen McElroy on 0408 655108.

Ag Ex Next Gen Project – Youth and Mentors Being Sought

Ag Ex have been successful in gaining funding to run a Next Gen project over the next 12 months targeting 15 – 30 years olds involved with agriculture.

The program will include regional days, industry site visits as well as state wide functions to support youth with increasing skills, knowledge and networks through the industry.

A key component of the program will be mentoring by people who have experience, skills and networks to support participants.

Ag Ex would welcome interest from youth keen to be involved and also from potential mentors.

Training for mentors is scheduled for late July. Please contact Heather Baldock, 0428 101 416 if you are interested in either component of the project.

Royal Adelaide Show – Grains and Fodder Section

Do you have any grain/hay stored on farm? Why not enter in the Grains and Fodder Section of the Adelaide Show. Lots of prize money and outstanding trophies to be won. Classes include cereals, pulses, hay and even prepared seed. Minimum sample of 3kg or a 10 litre container per entry.

****Entries close May 28th*

Ring Jo Geschmay on 0419 185 300 for a copy of the schedule and sample bags, or contact Robyn Muster, Adelaide Show Councillor/Vice Chairman of Grain and Fodder Committee, 0407 828 894

Grain Marketing In A Deregulated Market

Learn how to use grain marketing tools to manage risk on farm including:

- Production Risk
- Cash Flow Risk
- Pricing Risk

This one day course, presented by Arney Consulting, will give you the tools to calculate your cost of production and assess your profitability based on today's market price.

It also reviews the cash flow needs for your farming enterprise and risk management techniques through different marketing alternatives to suit your needs.

Locations throughout South Australia:

Mallala Football Club:	19 April, 2010	Bute Bowling Club:	20 April, 2010
Langhorne Creek Bowling Club:	21 April 2010	Balaklava Football Club:	22 April 2010
Crystal Brook Golf Club:	23 April 2010	Milang Institute:	27 April 2010
Booreroo Centre Hotel:	30 April 2010	Keith PIRSA Office:	6 May, 2010
Bowhill Tennis Club:	24 May, 2010	Loxton Research Centre:	25 May, 2010
Lameroo Bowling Club:	26 May 2010	Geranium Bowling Club:	27 May 2010
Coomandook Church:	28 May 2010	Coonalpyn Football Club:	31 May, 2010

Workshops run from 9.30am—3.30pm*. Lunch provided. * Langhorne Creek and Milang start 8.45am to 3.00pm

Workshops funded by the State Government Drought Response. Several have already been held across EP

REGISTER WITH ARNEY CONSULTING Phone: 08 8388 0684 Fax: 08 8388 0745, or darrenarney@bigpond.com

Partners In Grain Support Webinar Training

Partners in Grain in SA and Vic are working with Andrew Whitlock from PrecisionAgriculture.com.au to host a free Introduction to Precision Ag webinar on the 21st April 2010.

A webinar is a meeting / workshop held in a virtual classroom over the internet.

The webinar will be at 8.00pm SA time and 8.30 pm Vic time and will run for approximately one hour. Assistance will be given to people before the webinar who are not familiar with the technology.

If interested please contact Kim Blenkiron on 0427 592 243 IMMEDIATELY.

How To Engage Youth in Agriculture

As part of their reports at this year's Forum, most Grower Groups mentioned how they encourage involvement of young growers. This information will be utilised as part of the documentation for Ag Ex's Next Gen project. The tricks the Groups use are worth sharing:

Communications:

Use email and texting

Ring and personally invite

Invite Uni, Urbrae and TAFE students/ other Groups/ women's groups / consultants to visit trial sites and attend trial targeted field days/crop walks

Ask young people for feedback – what worked for them, what didn't, what they want to see at a trial site/ learn / attend.

Workshops/Training/Conferences/:

Timing – especially for young mothers, work around school hours to reduce child care issues; Accept toddlers and babies at workshops and consider arranging child care services.

Make sure sessions include exciting activities/learnings such as technology with attractive presentation.

Crop walks with focus on PA / technology are particularly attractive to young farmers

Host a younger visiting Ag Bureau and encourage own young farmers to come along

Do a bus trip targeting young farmers

Offer skills training for business management to support farm transition from father to son for members

Collectively/collaboratively run days/sessions together with other Groups, so that one day is required instead of several – farmers are time poor – activities must achieve goals. Include youth as MCs and speakers at Field days

Make farmer's days fun, relevant and finish up with BBQ & beer

Young are happy to check out new machinery (tyre kicking) not just trials

Bring on board younger reseller agronomists / consultants to attend, possibly as minor sponsors/skills contributors/speakers, further involvement may result in greater sponsorship (in time/skills contribution and/or dollars)

Run a separate session at field days specifically for students or "new to farming" attendees

Forum specifically dedicated to young growers – young speakers, run/organised mainly by younger committee members

Committees:

Deliberately target young people for positions on committees

Provide support / mentoring by "wise heads" for those new to roles

Give specific tasks such as preparing trial sites or planting trials

Get into the politics as well as production

Limit terms to 2 or 3 years to set up expectation of committee turn over and all having opportunity to contribute.

Awards/Scholarship

Offering Fellowships, Bursaries, and Scholarships annually to support young people in agriculture in their projects/study/research

Fund/sponsor positions specifically for young farmers to attend conferences (GRDC Update, SANTFA Conference etc)

SA Rural Leadership Program 2010

This year's program will be held on 29 & 30 June and 1 & 2 July and follow up 2 & 3 September 2010. Both sessions will be held in Adelaide. FarmReady approved for eligible Primary Producers, FarmReady course number FRTC00216.

For further info and application forms go to

www.pir.sa.gov.au/pirsa/communities/rural_leadership_program

Or contact Meg Partridge on 8226 0181 or Lib Hylton Keele on 8226 0245.

Diary Dates

April

- 20th Grower/NRM/Industry meeting at Murray Bridge for lower SAMDB region
27th Grower/NRM/Industry meeting at Struan for SE NRM region

June

- 24th Grower/NRM/Industry meeting at Wudinna for EP NRM region
Grower/NRM/Industry meetings at Mallala, Berri, and Kadina dates tba

July

- 26-28 Australian Grain Industry Conference, Melbourne, contact Rosemary Richards
ph 02 9427 6999
27th Hart Winter Walk
28th EPARF Member's Field Day @ Minnipa Research Centre (TBC)

August

- 4th GRDC Update Cummins
5th GRDC Update Wudinna
10 - 12th EP Field Days @ Cleve
16 & 17th Advisory Board of Agriculture AGM in the Upper North region
25th GRDC Update Lameroo
26th GRDC Update Mid North
31st GRDC Update Naracoorte

September

- 15th Minnipa Ag Centre Annual Field Day
21st Hart Field Day

October

- 21st Hart Spring Twilight Walk
21-22 Sheep CRC Conference Adelaide
27-28 MacKillop Field Days

February 2011

- 23 -24 GRDC Advisor Update, Adelaide
-

The next Ag Ex e-news is planned for late June, so if your group has an activity to report or a diary date, please email Heather Baldock as per details below.

AEA Contacts & Committee

www.agex.org.au

Chair – Mick Faulkner, 0428 857 378, faulkner@sa.chariot.net.au

Vice Chair - Bill Long , bill@agconsulting.com.au

Committee; Mark Stanley, Leighton Pearce, Sharon Honner, Jeanette Long, Mark Pedlar, Jen Lillecrapp, Kieran Wauchope, Trent Potter, Charlton Jeisman

Project Manager - Heather Baldock, 08 8627 4056, 0428 101 416, heather.agex@bigpond.com

Admin Officer - Lorraine Rice, 08 8853 2269, lorraine@agex.org.au

Ag Ex Sustainable Ag Officer in the NY NRM Region - Michael Richards, 0427 547 052, michael.nynrm@internode.on.net