



e-news www.agex.org.au

June 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*

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Grower / NRM / Industry Meetings

The roll out of Ag Ex facilitated Grower / NRM / Industry meetings continues next week with meetings at Kadina, Berri, Wudinna and Mallala. Please see diary dates at end of E – News.

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.

Meetings have already been held at Murray Bridge and Struan.

Anyone keen to be involved can contact Heather Baldock, 0428 101 416, to ensure an invite.

Ag Ex Next Gen Project – Youth and Mentors Being Sought

Encouraging youth involvement in agriculture is one of the long term objectives of Ag Excellence Alliance. The Next Gen project, which targets youth aged 15 – 30 involved in agriculture, will further this by encouraging and supporting Next Gen farmers to become more involved in decision making in their farming enterprise, and involved in community and industry bodies.

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) under Australia’s Farming Future.

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.

One of the key components of the program is the opportunity for participants to be mentored by experienced people from within the industry.

Ag Excellence Alliance will be targeting Next Genners on the Eyre Peninsula, South East, and Northern and Yorke regions, and also seeking mentors to work with the Next Genners in these regions.

Ag Ex would welcome interest from youth keen to be involved and also from potential mentors. Training for mentors will take place in late July/early August within the 3 regions, and the first regional workshops within each of the regions will take place in August.

Please contact Heather Baldock, 0428 101 416 if you are interested in either component of the project.

A similar project is being run in the SA MDB NRM Region, and anyone keen to know more or be involved can contact George King, of the Murray Mallee Local Action Planning Association on 0407 189 907.

Mellor Olsson Sponsorship for Ag Ex Stock Journal Page

The Mellor Olsson and Ag Ex partnership continues to place monthly stories in the Stock Journal, most recently the MacKillop Farm Management Group, and coming up this month SPAA. Added to these articles is the Around the Regions column for Grower Groups to briefly report on activities. The July issue will be open to all Ag Ex affiliated Grower Groups to promote Field days.

Mellor Olsson Staff 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

Meetings with Ministers and DAFF

Northern & Yorke NRM Region recently hosted key members of the SA DAFF Caring For Our Country Team.

While in the region the team members discussed CFOC projects, the role of farming groups and their contribution to NRM outcomes, how they work collaboratively and how presentation and farmer engagement styles impact on adoption of improved practices. The CFOC team were impressed with the capability of Farming Groups, their leverage of CFOC funds and their ability to deliver practice change. Many thanks to Hart, MNHRZ, Peracto, NSS, PING, and YPASG representatives who made time to share their experience and ideas. While in the region the CFOC team members also visited work undertaken by the N&R NRM Board at Point Pearce and Orroroo.

Following discussion at the last Ag Excellence Alliance management meeting Ag Ex has arranged a meeting in July with the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon Paul Caica MP to discuss the role of Farming Groups in delivering NRM and Production outcomes.

Heather & Graeme Baldock recently hosted Michael O'Brien, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries on their farm at Buckleboo along with a small group of Eastern Eyre farmers. R, D, & E, and the value/importance of grower groups were amongst the topics of discussion.

DWLBC Erosion Protection Report

The April 2010 seasonal erosion protection reports for the EP, N&Y, SAMDB and SE Regions are now on the DWLBC website at http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/land/monitoring/current_reports.html

If you have any questions relating to the land condition monitoring data please contact Giles Forward, Senior Scientific Officer (Land Condition Monitoring), DWLBC, Ph 08 8463 6835, 0428 102 747

Partners in Grain - SA 9 year Celebration

Partners in Grain SA are celebrating nine years of working with women in the grain industry to participate in professional development.

To mark this achievement Partners in Grain SA is hosting a day of celebration and learning in Adelaide on the 23rd July for women who have participated in the program in the past or would like to be involved in the future. The day will have sessions on Dressing for Success and Confidence, Using a Life Coach, and Understanding the Share market and other Off Farm Investing Options.

For more information contact Kim Blenkiron, Partners in Grain State Coordinator, 08 8536 8258.

EPARF Members Day 2010 ~"Cereal Growth Stages - Growing Your Profit"

The Eyre Peninsula Ag Research Foundation will be holding its members day, Cereal Growth Stages - Growing Your Profit, on Wednesday 28 July, at the Minnipa Agricultural Centre.

Topics include:

- How wheat grows and vulnerable stages
- Identification of growth stages in the field
- How soil water and nutrition is stored and released, and the impact of soil constraints
- Management with herbicides and fungicides
- Manipulating crop growth for \$\$

Cost: Free for members, \$110 for non-members

Registration essential, Please contact Leala Hoffmann or Dot Brace 8680 5104 for more information

MacKillop Activities

23rd July – MacKillop Group annual Members and Sponsors Dinner – The Great Debate! All are invited to come along and help settle which is the truly great state (SA or Vic) with our guest debating teams and judges.

RSVP by 12th July to Sophie Thring 08 8765 9050, check website for further info/invite

www.mackillopgroup.com.au

In the coming months MacKillop has planned; the visits to our Precision Ag trial sites; Beef Producers workshops; GRDC Updates; and our AGM at the end of August, followed by a Grain Storage and marketing information day in September. Peter Bota and Jeremy White will be the keynote speakers on this day; again more information will be available shortly on our website.

SPAA – PA in Practice

It's been a busy period for SPAA working with the 12 Farming Systems groups involved in our PA in Practice project to ensure 30 trials are implemented during this busy period. We have trials varying from variable rate application of fertiliser, seed, post emergent N applications to name just a few.

Our next major activities include an intensive PA training program for the group facilitators involved with the project in Adelaide, and of course the Winter Crop Walks, whereby farmers and industry will have the opportunity to view the many trials across the districts. Also, an opportunity to meet with farmers who have applied PA tools and discuss in season agronomy management. The workshops are free to attend. Confirmed dates include;

Date	Group	RSVP to;
1 August	Yorke Peninsula Alkaline Soils Group	Joylene Button 08 8853 2241
W/c 16 August TBC	Mallee Sustainable Farming	Richard Saunders – SA group 0419 853 089 Michael Moodie– Vic group 03 5021 9100
30 August	Lower E P Agriculture Development Assoc.	Kieran Wauchope 08 8688 3400
31 August	E P Agricultural Research Foundation	Linden Masters 08 8680 6210 0401 122 172
1 September	Hart Field Site group	Sam Trengove 0428 262 057
TBA	Upper North Farming Systems Group	Charlton Jeisman 08 8664 1408 0427 262 057
TBA	Coonalpyn Ag Bureau	Aaron Long 08 8571 1383 0428 711 087

More details on all events are available from the SPAA website www.spaa.com.au

Grain & Graze 2

The Grain & Graze 2 program for the eastern part of SA has just had another funding adjustment. Bill Long and Mick Faulkner have been in national meetings about the program again this week on behalf of Ag Ex and our Grower Groups. We hope to soon have something final to share with Grower Groups.

Animals - methane emissions

Please see below a link to an article on the how to deal with methane from animals and the small effect it has on emissions.

<http://qcl.farmonline.com.au/news/state/livestock/news/how-to-put-livestock-methane-back-on-track/1855020.aspx?storypage=0>

The Voluntary Carbon Market and Agriculture: Opportunity or Threat?

A course for South Australian farmers and land managers will be held across SA in July and August. This fully subsidized (FarmReady) one day course will inform attendees about opportunities in the voluntary carbon credit market. Please see attached flier for dates & further details.

Diary Dates

June

- 21st Grower/NRM/Industry meeting at Kadina, *Ag Ex facilitated ph 0428 101 416*
 - 22nd Grower/NRM/Industry meeting at Berri, *Ag Ex facilitated ph 0428 101 416*
 - 22nd Climate Change & Carbon Trading W/shops, Cummins, Cleve, *info EP NRM 8627 555*
 - 22nd FFI CRC Symposia "Bridging Productivity and Sustainability, Waite Campus, *info or rego barbara.anderson@sa.gov.au or 8303 9531*
 - 21-22 SPAA Advanced PA Training Course, Adelaide, *info Sam Trengove 0428 262 057*
 - 23rd Climate Change & Carbon Trading W/shops, Wudinna, Ceduna, *info EP NRM 8627 555*
 - 24th Grower/NRM/Industry meeting at Wudinna, *Ag Ex facilitated ph 0428 101 416*
 - 24th Mallee Sustainable Farming Tri-State Meeting, Ouyen, *info Kathryn Kenny 0429 448 097*
 - 25th Grower/NRM/Industry meetings at Mallala, *Ag Ex facilitated ph 0428 101 416*
 - 30th or July 1st MacKillop Beef Producers Ruminant Nutrition Workshop
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July

- 5-6th Low Rainfall Collaboration Profit/Risk Workshop, Waite Campus
- 19-20th Coast to Coast Low R/fall Grazing Systems & Pasture, Cowell to Ceduna, *info Mary Crawford 8688 3414*
- 22-23rd Coast to Coast Low R/fall Grazing Systems & Pasture, Ceduna to Cowell, *info Mary Crawford 8688 3414*
- 23rd "Celebrating 9 Years of Partners in Grain in SA: *info Kim Blenkiron 0427 592 243*
- 23rd MacKillop Annual Sponsors and Members Dinner, Settlers Café, Naracoorte, *info Krysteen McElroy 0408 655 108*
- 26-28 Australian Grain Industry Conference, Melbourne, *info Rosemary Richards ph 02 9427 6999*
- 27th Hart Winter Walk, *info Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154*
- 28th EPARF Member's Field Day, Minnipa Research Centre, *info Dot Brace 8680 5104*

August

- 4th GRDC Update Cummins
 - 5th GRDC Update Wudinna
 - 4-5 MacKillop Precision Ag Trial site visits, *info Krysteen McElroy 0408 655 108*
 - 10-12 EP Field Days @ Cleve
 - 16-17 Advisory Board of Agriculture AGM in the Upper North region
 - 16-19 Low Rainfall Collaboration Conference, Mildura, *info Geoff Thomas 08 8178 0886*
 - 18th MLA “Making More from Sheep” Forum, Clare, *info Richard Apps 0408 972 611*
 - 19-20 SAFF AGM, Mawson Lakes
 - 25th GRDC Update Lameroo
 - 26th GRDC Update Mid North
 - 26th MLA “Making More from Sheep” Forum, Naracoorte, *info Richard Apps 0408 972 611*
 - 31st GRDC Update Naracoorte & MacKillop FMG AGM
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September

- 2-3rd 14th Symposium of Precision Agriculture in Australasia, organised by SPAA and the Australian Centre for Precision Agriculture (ACPA, Albury Commercial Club, NSW.
 - 7th Mallee Sustainable Farming Waikerie Field Day
 - 10th Waite Campus Open Day, *info Dr Tony Rathjen 0408 816 533*
 - 14th Mallee Sustainable Farming Water Use Efficiency Day Karoonda
 - 15th Minnipa Ag Centre Annual Field Day, *info Naomi Scholz 0428 540 670*
 - 17th Upper North Farming Systems Annual Field Day, Morchard Hall, via Orroroo “Ten Years and Going Strong”, *info Charlton Jeisman 8664 1408*
 - 21st Hart Field Day, *info Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154*
 - 22nd Women’s Minnipa Ag Centre Field Day in conjunction with PinG
 - 22nd MacKillop Grain Storage & Marketing Day
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October

- 12-13 Advisory Board of Agriculture meetings
 - 12th Mid North High Rainfall Zone Group main Field Day, *info Mick Faulkner 0428 857 378*
 - 13th Advisory Board of Ag / Ag Bureau of SA “Spirit of Excellence Awards” Dinner, Adelaide
 - 21st Hart Spring Twilight Walk, *info Sandy Kimber 0427 423 154*
 - 21-22 Sheep CRC Conference Adelaide
 - 27-28 MacKillop Field Days at Frances & Conmurra, *info Krysteen McElroy 0408 655 108*
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February 2011

23 -24 GRDC Advisor Update, Adelaide

The next Ag Ex e-news is planned for late August, 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 – Bill Long , 0417 803 034, bill@agconsulting.com.au

Vice Chair - Mick Faulkner, faulkner@sa.chariot.net.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