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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, September 26, 2011

HART FIELD DAY SUCCESS

More than 500 growers and industry representatives converged on the Hart Field-Site last Thursday (September 22) for the annual Hart Field Day.

The mood among the crowd remained optimistic despite warm, windy conditions on the day, with all of them holding out great hope for a good rain this week to restore some moisture in their crops.

More than 30 nationally and internationally renowned cropping specialists presented at the trial site throughout the day on everything from variety testing, disease control, agronomy and markets.

Hart Field-Site Group chairman Matt Dare said the committee was very pleased with the success of the day, particularly given the unfavourable weather conditions.

“The lunch-time speaker Dr Andy Barr’s presentation was one of the highlights of the field day,” he said.

“His message about the importance of agricultural research and grower levies to fund research to improve productivity in the future reinforced the work being done at the Hart Field-Site.”

Dr Barr is a Pinery farmer, plant breeder and agricultural consultant. He served on the GRDC Southern Panel 2005-2011, was a board member of ABB Grain from 2006-2009 and has also undertaken recent consultancy work in wheat breeding programs overseas.

Other high profile speakers included New South Wales Department of Primary Industries senior research agronomist Dr Neil Fettell who spoke about making the most of soil moisture.

New Zealander, Foundation for Arable Research research coordinator Nick Poole gave updates on recent research into stem rust in wheat.

A huge range of other trials and speakers completed the program, with everything from a historic barley variety demonstration, a new group B tolerant crop trial and phosphorus trial as well as trials on wheat, durum, barley, oats, triticale, canola, pulses, pastures and weed control.

Static displays, including the Rocky River Ag Services roadshow, were also on site.

To see how the trial site is progressing next month, join the Hart Spring Twilight Walk on Tuesday, October 18. For more information take a look at the Hart Field-Site Group website www.hartfieldsite.org.au or contact Sandy Kimber on 0427 423 154 or email admin@hartfieldsite.org.au.