



Thursday, 25 August, 2016

A big 'tick' for pulses at 2016 Hart Field Day

The United Nations' International Year of Pulses will be celebrated at the Hart Field Day on Tuesday, 20 September.

Along with the traditional broadacre agronomy focus of the day, pulses will feature with keynote speaker, Pulse Australia chairman Peter Wilson, international guest, Canadian pulse researcher Professor Bert Vandenberg, and well-known chef and author Simon Bryant showing us how to 'Eat What You Grow' from 11am-midday.

Hart Field-Site Group chairman, Spalding farmer, Damien Sommerville says it is an exciting time to showcase pulses.

"This year has worked out really well with the International Year of Pulses coinciding with high plantings of pulse crops and decent prices," Mr Sommerville says.

"At the same time as there's some good research going on, there's more pulses being grown with lentil and chickpea plantings really expanded.

"While two thirds of the Hart trials are cereals, canola and pastures and will again feature strongly in our field day program, we also have a larger selection of pulse trials on show this year."

Pulse Australia chairman Peter Wilson says pulses are a relatively cost effective option – both for the family budget in terms of domestic consumption and farm rotations.

"Pulses are potentially hitting the spot in balancing the family budget, in nutrition and in farm sustainability through reducing synthetic fertiliser usage," Mr Wilson says.

"This year, lentil and Desi chickpea production could see major balance sheet improvements for farmers with good prices and rotation benefits."

Mr Wilson said the International Year of Pulses aimed to increase awareness of pulses.

He says Australia is the single largest exporter of the Desi chickpea, the largest exporter of faba beans and the second largest exporter of lentils, behind Canada.

But with Australians consuming only 2-3 per cent of pulses grown here, and exporting 95pc, greater awareness was needed about how easily pulses could be incorporated into daily diet to help push domestic demand for the products.

"People are getting excited about superfoods like quinoa and chia, but pulses are not a flash in the pan product, there's a tremendous legacy, they've been around a long time and more and more people are beginning to experience them," he says.

"The fact that you can have a lentil burger at the Royal Hotel in Balaklava and pulses are being presented in restaurants and hotels around the country as a menu option, when historically people are meat and three veg eaters shows greater awareness.

"Pulses are a great complementary food – you can simply add them to foods you're already eating like garnishes on salads and simply complementing what's on the plate with pulses."

Peter will be the keynote lunch time speaker at the Hart Field Day, along with chef and author Simon Bryant.

A full, rolling program of sessions will be presented throughout the day.

Some of the highlights of this year's event include:

- Innovative seeding systems – ultra high pressure water jet stream cutter, precision planting, bent leg opener technology (Greg Butler, SANTFA and James Barr, University of South Australia)
- Early sowing barley - how do barley varieties respond to time of sowing in SA and management options? (Kenton Porker, University of Adelaide)
- Spring insect management (SARDI Entomology)
- Pulse breeding goals – Canadian experience in lentil and faba bean breeding programs (Prof Bert van den Berg, University of Saskatchewan, and Larn McMurray, SARDI).
- Getting pre-emergent herbicides right (Chris Preston, University of Adelaide)
- Nitrogen fertiliser – in season management with sensors and system losses (Sam Trengove, Trengove Consulting, and Sarah Noack, Hart Field-Site Group)
- Legume and oilseed herbicide tolerance – the original Hart field day trial (John Both, Nufarm, and Patrick Redden, Rural Directions)
- Oat varieties and export hay (Pamela Zwer, SARDI, and Denis McGrath, AEXCO)
- Pasture production and grazing systems (Tim Prance, Prance Rural Consulting)
- Variety trials, disease management and much more.

Sponsored by Rocky River Ag Services, the Hart Field Day gets underway on Tuesday, 20 September, with gates open at 9am and an official opening at 10am. The first session starts at 10.30am sharp.

Admission is \$30 (students \$5), and includes access to all 22 sessions and 42 specialist speakers, as well as a comprehensive Hart Field Day guide with articles and information from each of the sessions.

Full catering is available throughout the day (cash sales only) and a refreshment tent featuring a complimentary 'Pulse Revival' tasting station will operate after the event.

The Hart Field Day will be held 10 kilometres north of Blyth, just off the Blyth to Brinkworth road and is well signposted.

Bus and group tours are welcome.

Pre-registration and payment is now live online, so to register or 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

Media contact:

HFSG chairman Damien Sommerville on 0417 850 587 or research and extension manager Dr Sarah Noack 0420 218 420. Pulse Australia chairman Peter Wilson can be contacted on 0417 541 174.