



Wednesday, 1 March , 2017

## **Yeelanna farmer to give insight into his sustainable farming approach at Getting The Crop In seminar**

Yeelanna farmer Randall Wilksch will 'open up' his farm gates and give a personal insight into his experiences with controlled traffic, precision farming and women in agriculture, as guest farmer speaker at the Getting The Crop In seminar in Clare on 23 March.

Randall farms a 3650 hectare property on the Lower Eyre Peninsula with wife Julie, brother Jordy and his wife Kylie, and parents Max and Julie, and will give a first-hand account of their farming enterprise.

Winners of a 2016 Syngenta Australia Sustainability Award, controlled traffic – aligning wheel tracks to reduce compaction of the soil - has been a focus for Wilksch Agriculture since 2012, and Randall says 'bigger is not always better' when it comes to machinery.

"We began looking at controlled traffic because it was starting to get to a point where there was bigger and bigger machinery and we no longer wanted to play the game of 'my tractor is bigger than yours'," Randall said.

"We're still one of the only people I know that went to a smaller tractor not bigger, but having said that we did buy two and employed excellent staff.

"We're definitely not fanatical in our approach, and I'll speak about how our business found a system that works for us."

Randall will also give an insight into Wilksch Agriculture's precision agriculture methods, including soil mapping of their "highly variable soil types", and investment and education in the supporting technology and equipment required.

For the first time in 2016, pH testing across the Wilksch's Yeelanna property gave additional information to the EM38 and gamma radiometric testing conducted in 2015.

"It has really helped us understand how wide the differences in our soil are and to get a better handle on variable rate fertilising," Randall said.

Randall will also share his experiences as a Nuffield scholar and his research topic looking at why females are not choosing careers in agriculture.

"We need to stop thinking only about boys being the next generation of farmers and start encouraging women," he said.

"I'm a father of two boys and two girls – I won't be putting any pressure on them to choose farming as a career but there's a perception out there that boys are the farmers and girls go and do something else, and I just couldn't work out why that is.

“In my grandfather’s day farming was more physical, but it’s not so these days and the farming business is changing, it’s more of a business not just a family show.

“Women have such different perspectives on a whole lot of problems and have a whole different approach to things – they have a lot to bring to the table in running a farming business.”

Hear Randall speak at the Getting The Crop In seminar in Clare on 23 March.

**For more information and to register for this event, see the Hart Field-Site Group website [www.hartfieldsite.org.au](http://www.hartfieldsite.org.au)**

**Media contact:**

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Randall Wilksch, Yelanna, will speak at Hart’s Getting The Crop In seminar on March 23, 2017.