



Monday, 27 March, 2017

Farmers armed with knowledge to tackle seeding 2017

The header may have only just gone back into the shed, but as we head into April and with Anzac Day less than a month away, it will signal the start of seeding for many.

Growers keen to be up-to-date with the latest trial research results, commodity market trends and to get themselves in the seeding mindset, gathered in Clare on March 23 for the annual Getting the Crop In seminar.

Hosted by the Hart Field-Site Group, and sponsored by Rabobank, the free seminar attracted 135 participants, who were the first to get their hands on the 2016 Hart Trials Results book (also available to download free from www.hartfieldsite.org.au).

In 2016, 30 trials across 2000 plots were hosted or conducted by the Hart Field-Site Group.

Outgoing Hart regional intern Rochelle Wheaton spoke about some of the results, including a new project looking at managing early sown wheat, as well as joint research with The University of Adelaide on nutrient stratification.

She also spoke about chicken litter trials conducted over the last 10 years at Marrabel, Hill River and Hart, with findings suggesting application of chicken litter appears to complement traditional chemical fertiliser application by increasing the phosphorus availability in the soil.

Yeelanna farmer Randall Wilksch was well-received by the audience who were given an insight into his farming operations as well as his Nuffield Scholarship study into encouraging women into a career on the farm.

Local consultant Mick Faulkner spoke about Frost and Farming and the unpredictable nature of it, sharing some strategies to consider to assist forward planning including plant and temperature monitoring.

Rural Directions director Chris Heinjus provided the latest international commodity market trends information, looking at how overseas production was tracking and what impact that would have for South Australian farmers.

Finally, an on-the-couch session was held for the first time, with three farmers taking to the stage for a Q & A style insight to give a broad perspective on a range of farming issues.

Keynote speaker Randall Wilksch, Narridy farmer Linden Price and Farrell Flat farmer Rob Purvis fielded questions from the floor which ranged from wellbeing and juggling family time, to how they manage grain storage, summer weeds and succession planning.

Following the Getting the Crop In seminar, the GRDC hosted its Farm Business Update, with many staying on for the afternoon session.

Upcoming Hart Field-Site Group events:

- Spray workshop – April 3, 2017, 8.30am – midday. Hart Field-Site.(Free)
- AGM – April 4, 2017. 6pm. Goyder boardroom (155 Main North Rd, Clare)
- Winter Walk – July 18, 2017. 9am-midday. Hart Field-Site. (Free)
- Hart Field Day – September 19, 2017. 9am-3pm. Hart Field-Site.
- Spring Twilight Walk – October 17, 2017. 5pm. Hart Field-Site. (Free, followed by bbq).

For more information on any of these events, see the Hart Field-Site Group website www.hartfieldsite.org.au

Media contact:

For information about the seminar, HFSG chairman Damien Sommerville 0417 850 587 or HFSG research and extension manager Sarah Noack 0420 218 420.