



Thursday, September 6, 2018

## Hay there, it's Hart Field Day time

Australia's drought and dry seasonal conditions in 2018 atop of export demand from China may have many farmers looking to increase their oat acreage next year.

For those who are, the Hart Field Day on Tuesday, September 18, is bringing to its program Western Australian research officer Georgie Troup from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), and long-time Hart presenter, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) principle oat breeder Pamela Zwer.

Pamela and Georgie will present as part of the Hart rolling program.

Georgie will focus on oaten hay agronomy, addressing time of sowing and variety selection and her research into improving hay yield and quality.

Pamela will speak about the SARDI oat breeding program, as well as give an insight into two new varieties – being trialled at the Hart Field-Site – to be launched next year, ready for the 2020 growing season.

“Two new oat varieties are set to be launched in Spring 2019, and the Hart Field Day is a great opportunity to see them sown into a demo trial,” she said.

“One is 05096-32, a mid-tall potential hay variety with early mid to mid-season maturity variety, the other is 06204-16, a dwarf, early-mid season potential milling oat. It has excellent grain yield similar to Williams and Bannister in SA, but with improved grain quality compared to the two varieties.

“Some growers are only just starting to think about or getting back into growing oats, so I'll speak on some of the more popular varieties also.”

Pamela said current seasonal conditions and demand for export hay had created an increased interest in oats, and she was looking forward to speaking with growers at the field day to help them maximise their hay potential.

“The exporters are anxious to encourage growers to increase the production of oaten hay, particularly because the export market into China is growing in leaps and bounds,” she said.

“We can encourage growers by having better disease resistance and be able to achieve that grade one quality export hay.”

The 2018 Hart Field Day will feature 19 rolling sessions – enabling visitors to choose their own program for the day – and more than 30 specialist speakers, providing direct access for information and questions to some of Australia's leading agronomy and research experts.

To register or for more information take a look at the Hart Field-Site Group website [www.hartfieldsite.org.au](http://www.hartfieldsite.org.au) or contact Sandy Kimber on 0427 423 154 or email [admin@hartfieldsite.org.au](mailto:admin@hartfieldsite.org.au)

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