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MEDIA RELEASE

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Growers turn out for Hart pre-seeding event

Almost 100 growers and industry representatives gathered in Clare on Wednesday for the Hart Field-Site Group annual Getting the Crop In seminar, with recent rainfall adding fresh relevance to discussions ahead of the 2026 cropping season.

The free event connected farmers with industry experts across agronomy, grain markets and farm business management, providing practical insights as sowing approaches.

Hart executive officer Sandy Haskell said the strong turnout reflected growers' appetite for timely information and discussion as seasonal conditions continue to evolve.

"This year's program covered a broad range of topics, from crop sequencing and nitrogen strategies through to machinery investment decisions and grain markets," she said.

"The level of engagement from the audience was really encouraging, with plenty of questions and discussion throughout the morning."

Sandy said rainfall received across parts of South Australia in recent weeks had shifted the outlook for many growers.

"The rain we've seen recently has changed the game for many growers, who are now reviewing their plans and thinking about how they approach their cropping program this season," she said.

"Obviously, follow-up rain is all-important, but with some decent rainfall recorded across the local growing area, it made the timing of this event particularly valuable.

"Attendees were able to hear from experts, but also compare notes with other farmers about what they're seeing on the ground."

The program featured Jamestown grower Scott Clark, who gave an insight into how his family farming business operates.

Given the current global uncertainty, RaboResearch analyst Vitor Pistóia gave an interesting outlook on the global grain market, while Hart research lead Kaidy Morgan shared some of the key findings from the 2025 Hart Field-Site trials.

Coinciding with the event, Hart's annual trials results were also launched, and are now available online on the Hart website.





Photo (L-R): Getting The Crop In seminar guest speakers Vitor Pistoia; RaboResearch, Craig Davis; Crop Consulting Services, Kaidy Morgan; Hart Field-Site Group, Dr Matthew Knowing; Adelaide University.

Craig Davis from Crop Consulting Services and Dr Matthew Knowing from Adelaide University paired up to present the findings of their trials highlighting crop sequencing, and the best performing systems.

Pinion Advisory's Royce Pitchford shared some of the considerations and formulas helpful in making farm machinery replacement, repair and reinvestment decisions.

Sam Kleemann from Plant Science Consulting shared SA survey results around herbicide resistance.

The Agfert-sponsored seminar was followed by a crop establishment forum hosted by the SA Drought Hub.

"Partnering with the SA Drought Hub this year was particularly pertinent," Sandy said.

"Their session focused on practical tools and tactics to improve crop establishment, which is something front of mind for many growers who have come through consecutively dry seasons."

The next Hart event is the Winter Walk on July 21 at the Hart field-site.

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