

Hart Field-Site Group Inc
PO Box 939
CLARE SA 5453

admin@hartfieldsite.org.au
www.hartfieldsite.org.au



MEDIA RELEASE

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Seminar gives growers food for thought ahead of seeding

About 140 farmers and industry professionals gathered in Clare last week (March 11) for the Hart Field-Site Group's *Getting the Crop In* seminar.

Following breakfast, guests heard from a variety of speakers about cropping trends for the year ahead as well as trial results and the first hand experiences of some of their peers.

Keynote speaker was Victorian Farmers Federation chairman, Nuffield Scholar and mixed farmer Andrew Broad from Bridgewater, Victoria, who gave a young farmer's perspective on farming and shared his optimistic visions for the future.

Speakers from Rabobank, Agrisemm and Viterra spoke about the outlook for grain commodity prices, pulse crops and the future for barley.

Farmers Richard Rackham from Redhill, Rob Heaslip from Huddleston and Nick Ottens of Lochiel opened up a forum on grain marketing, sharing their own approach to marketing.

Hart Field-Site Group trials manager Peter Hooper summarised his 2009 trials, while SARDI research agronomists Mick Lines and Matt Dare talked through some of their trial results.

SARDI New Variety Evaluation senior scientist Rob Wheeler shared some of his trial results from 2009, with particularly interesting information on stripe rust and sprouting in new varieties of wheat.

The Hart Trials Results 2009 book is now available for \$10. Contact Sandy Kimber on 0427 423 154 or email admin@hartfieldsite.org.au for a copy.

Media contact: Gabrielle Hall 0408 991 058, or Hart Field-Site Group chairman Grant Roberts 0428 880 010.