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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 7 September, 2011

HART FIELD DAY HERE AGAIN

With more than 30 nationally and internationally renowned cropping specialists heading to the Hart Field Day on Thursday, September 22, farmers will have an opportunity to hear and see first hand the latest in varieties, disease control, agronomy and markets.

A rolling program of half hour sessions enables visitors to tailor their own program for the day, choosing eight sessions to attend from more than 20 session options.

Among some of the high profile speakers at this year's event is New Zealander, Foundation for Arable Research research coordinator, Nick Poole, who has undertaken some recent research on stem rust in wheat, a topic that is likely to be particularly pertinent in South Australia this growing season.

New South Wales Department of Primary Industries senior research agronomist Dr Neil Fettell will speak about making the most of soil moisture, with time of sowing, sowing rates, row spacing and nitrogen use among some of the issues associated with this topic.

Pinery farmer, plant breeder and agricultural consultant Dr Andrew (Andy) Barr will be the lunch time guest speaker.

Andy brings to Hart a wealth of experience including 27 years as a plant breeder during which time he released and contributed to the development of more than 25 varieties of oats, barley and wheat.

He returned to the family farm in 2003, but continues to be involved in agricultural research through plant breeding trials, served on the GRDC Southern Panel 2005-2011, was a board member of ABB Grain from 2006-2009 and has undertaken recent consultancy work in wheat breeding programs in the United Kingdom, Mexico and India.

These are just some of Andy's achievements, and his lunch time address will focus on national and international agricultural research and development, global trade in agricultural commodities and the future of farming in SA.

A huge range of other trials and speakers complete the program, with everything from a historic barley variety demonstration, a new group B tolerant crop trial and phosphorus trial and all the latest in varieties of wheat, durum, barley, oats, triticale, canola, pulses, pastures and weed control.

Hart Field-Site Group trials manager Peter Hooper said the variety and access to renowned leaders in grains research as well as other growers who have first hand experience is what makes the Hart Field Day one of the leading agronomy field days in Australia.

"We provide such an independent opportunity for growers to view a really big range of varieties, fertiliser and herbicide options and trial results," he said.

“It is leading edge information and there’s no pressure to buy anything, it’s a neutral environment. The access to researchers and speakers of the calibre we have at Hart and the opportunity to ask questions and chat informally with these experts is something you don’t get anywhere else.

“There is such a wide range on offer, there’s no excuse that any farmer wouldn’t be able to pick up some new information at Hart, it’s really a one stop shop.”

There will also be a wide range of static displays including the Rocky River Ag Services roadshow showing off the new *flexicoil* seeders, as well as grain marketers and other groups.

The 2011 Hart Field Day gets underway on Thursday, September 22, with gates opening at 9am and the welcome and official opening at 10am. Sessions begin at 10.30am.

Admission is \$30 (students \$5), with entry entitling visitors to a bronze membership to the Hart Field-Site Group, membership upgrades are available on the day (credit card facilities available). A comprehensive Hart Field Day guide is also included in the entry price.

Full catering is available throughout the day (cash sales only) and a refreshment tent will operate after the event.

The Hart Field Day will be held 10 kilometres north of Blyth on the Blyth to Brinkworth Road and is well signposted.

Bus and group tours are welcome.

For more information take a look at the Hart Field Site Group website www.hartfieldsite.org.au or contact Sandy Kimber on 0427 423 154 or email admin@hartfieldsite.org.au.

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