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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Wednesday, 5 September, 2012**

### **BIG PROGRAM FOR HART FIELD DAY**

The annual Hart Field Day will be held on Tuesday, 18 September, and with more than 30 speakers coming from around the country to present, it will be a one-stop-shop for the latest information on agronomy, varieties, disease and weed control and seeding innovation.

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.

A highlight of this year's event will be the opportunity for growers from around the Hart district to volunteer to try out the new Harrington Seed Destructor (HSD) on-farm during the upcoming harvest.

Up to 20 farmers will be given the opportunity to have the weed seed "destructor" operating, free of charge, on their property for two days during harvest.

While the first commercial HSD machines are still being manufactured, it is anticipated that a HSD prototype will be on display at the field day.

University of Western Australia research associate professor Dr Michael Walsh will present at the Hart Field Day about this exciting innovation in harvest weed seed control.

"The HSD consistently destroys 90-95 per cent of annual ryegrass, wild radish, wild oats and brome grass seed present in the chaff fraction," he says.

Bevan Wilson from De Bruin Engineering, Mount Gambier, will be on hand to answer any queries about the commercialisation of the HSD.

Also joining Dr Walsh at the Hart Field Day will be WA farmer, and developer of the revolutionary new conveyor belt system for chaff carts, Lance Turner.

Dr Walsh says Lance's innovative new delivery system for chaff carts had created significant interest in WA, and was shown to overcome issues with extended chaff burn time and fire risk.

Clare-based Dr Allan Mayfield will be the lunchtime guest speaker at the event. Having been involved in the Hart Field Day almost since its inception, he has seen the event evolve over the last 30 years.

Coupled with his extensive experience as an agronomist and agricultural consultant, Allan will provide an engaging lunch-time presentation.

Among other sessions on offer are the control of ryegrass in break crops, especially clethodim resistance; group B tolerant crops and brome grass; snail control; canola agronomy and the management of blackleg and the strategic use of fungicides as well as canola harvest management including harvest timing and direct heading.

Nigel Wilhelm will speak on phosphorus fertilisers and San Jolly will present on pasture production and nutrition, including feed quality.

Exciting new technology including in-furrow liquid injection demonstrations and the SA No-Till Farmers Association's Water-Jet system will be on show.

There will also be speakers addressing a wide range of other agronomy, variety, herbicide and growth regulant information.

There will also be static displays from Rocky River Ag Services and several other groups.

The 2012 Hart Field Day gets underway on Tuesday, September 18, with gates opening at 9am and the official opening at 10am. The first session will begin at 10.30am sharp.

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

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

The Hart Field Day is 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](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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*The Hart Field Day is recognised as one of the leading agronomy field days in Australia.*



*A big program of speakers is planned for the next Hart Field Day on 18 September.*