



Friday, 13 March, 2015

Seminar helps farmers prepare for seeding ahead of opening rains

More than 170 farmers as well as agronomy and grain industry experts gathered in Clare this week (Wednesday, March 11) for the annual Hart Field-Site Group's *Getting the Crop In* seminar.

With a line-up of international and state-wide speakers, the group left armed with the most up-to-date information and predictions on grain markets, grain varieties and detailed reports on how last year's crops performed.

Hart Field-Site Group chairman and Brinkworth farmer Justin Wundke says participants are now well-poised to tackle the coming growing season.

"We were excited to once again bring a quality line-up of speakers to the Mid North for this seminar to provide very practical advice and market predictions at a time of the year when farmers are starting to focus on seeding," he says.

"It won't be long and we'll be looking for good opening rains to kick-start the growing season."

The Hart Field-Site Group was able to offer tickets free to participants, thanks to event sponsorship from Rabobank, Clare.

International speaker, Rabobank AgriFinance and International Food & Agribusiness Research and Advisory senior vice president Sterling Liddell from Missouri, USA, gave his perspective on how American farming issues affect Australian growers, including the trends, challenges and risks in the market.

The Hart Field-Site Group was fortunate to secure Mr Liddell for its seminar in Clare as part of his two week tour around Australia, speaking at 16 functions across three states.

Eyre Peninsula farmer Mark Modra gave an informative insight into his family farming operations – including the challenges of farming on Thistle Island, off Port Lincoln, and the innovative solutions and machinery adaptations required to meet the challenges.

He spoke of the need to "respectively challenge people and systems" in his approach to farming, as well as his experiences travelling the world as a Nuffield Scholar and his observations as a member of the *Rabobank Global Farmers Masterclass* in 2014.

Hart Field-Site Group research and extension manager Sarah Noack presented the key findings and updates on the 2014 Hart Trials, including the official release of the 2014 Hart Trials Results book.

Highly-respected SARDI New Variety Evaluation senior scientist Rob Wheeler gave a comprehensive rundown on last season's cereal variety performances. He also advised the Crop Performance Report is expected to be available on the PIRSA website in late March.

AvantAgri Australia's Malcolm Barholomaeus spoke about 'What the market is telling us to sow', including price predictions and global production trends.

The Hart Field-Site Group will hold its AGM on Tuesday, 7 April, at 5pm at the Sevenhill Hotel. All are welcome and financial members are invited to register their interest in joining the board by contacting Sandy Kimber as soon as possible by emailing admin@hartfieldsite.org.au

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