



Thursday, August 24, 2017

Online registrations open for Hart Field Day

Avoid the morning queue and fast track your way in by registering online now for the annual Hart Field Day on Tuesday, September 19.

A huge program has been put together for this year's event at the state's premier cropping field site, with 21 rolling sessions being presented by leading researchers, agronomists and experts.

Key lunchtime speaker will be consultant Ken Solly, speaking on 'Fertilising the top paddock – sowing a good life by choice not chance'.

Canadian plant pathology researcher Dr Kelly Turkington from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada will speak about how crop rotations are just as important as what you grow each year.

Agriculture Victoria researcher Professor Roger Armstrong will present on rotation and tillage effects on soil fertility as well as the benefit of long-term trials.

And make sure you're on top of mice management this season, don't miss Steve Henry from the CSIRO, whose presentation will be particularly relevant given many crops are starting to flower - providing some tasty treats for problem mice.

Among the other sessions are:

- Optimising canola productivity and profitability, Dr John Kirkegaard from CSIRO sharing four seasons of experience in medium and low rainfall areas;
- Learn about new on-board grain analysing technology for monitoring grain protein and oil content in real time at harvest;
- See for yourself how new pre-emergent herbicides for grass control in cereals are performing with Dr Chris Preston, University of Adelaide.

Hart Field-Site Group chairman and Spalding farmer Damien Sommerville says the field day site is looking good and providing an excellent indication of how a huge variety of crops can perform under trying seasonal conditions.

On his Spalding farm, Damien says this season has made a significant turn-around.

"It was a very tough, dry start but we've had good emergence in our patch," he said.

"Even though we were really nervous, it's looking great now, we've had good rains over the last few weeks and the forecast is for more rain.

"The season has turned from being a real drought mindset to much more optimistic, people in this area are now talking about average to above average crops depending how the spring finishes off, rather than below average like we were expecting earlier on in the season.

“That’s not to say all areas of the state are the same, some areas around Balaklava, Mallala, Yorke Peninsula and the West Coast have to varying degrees poorer crops, or didn’t get crops out of the ground due to low rainfall.

“It is quite surprising how good the trials at Hart are looking considering how low the rainfall has been until recent weeks.”

Sponsored by Rocky River Ag Services, the Hart Field Day gets underway on Tuesday, September 19, with gates open at 9am and an official opening at 10am. The first session starts at 10.30am sharp.

Admission is \$30 (students \$5), and includes access to all 20 sessions and 30 specialist speakers, as well as a comprehensive Hart Field Day guide with articles and information from each of the sessions.

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, just off the Blyth to Brinkworth road, and is well signposted.

Bus and group tours are welcome.

Pre-registration and payment is now live online, so to register or 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

While you are encouraged to get in early to register, online registrations will remain open until lunchtime on the 19th, so even if you decide on the day to head along it is easy to sign up and fast track your way through the gate.

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