



Friday, September 20, 2019

## Hart Field Day success shows why it is the state's premier cropping event

All roads in the Mid North seemed to lead to the Hart Field Day last Tuesday, September 17, as the Hart Field-Site Group's annual event got under way.

Organisers were thrilled to welcome more than 650 visitors through the gate, all keen to see how the field trials were progressing for 2019.

There was plenty of topical information on this year's program also drawing people in, with the genetically modified (GM) canola debate and information sessions about canola varieties proving to be popular with patrons.

The official launch of the state-of-the-art iMapPESTS Sentinel pest and disease surveillance unit was led by Dr Rohan Kimber from the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

The Sentinel unit was set up at Hart, where it will remain in operation throughout spring, and generated plenty of interest from the crowd, keen to see how it operates.

Mid North Mesonet, the new weather monitoring system to help determine temperature inversion conditions before spraying, was also officially launched by Primary Industries and Regions chief executive officer Scott Ashby and Member for Frome Geoff Brock.

The free resource aimed at reducing spray drift is available online at [midnorthmesonet.taindata.com](http://midnorthmesonet.taindata.com) and provides real-time weather information from 40 automatic weather stations across the Mid North, with information on temperature, rainfall, windspeed, delta T, relative humidity and grass fire danger index.

InterGrain launched a new imi-tolerant (imidazolinone chemical-tolerant) Kingbale oat variety and Hart Field-Site Group chair Ryan Wood welcomed lunch time guest speaker Deanna Lush from AgCommunicators.

"Deanna gave us an insightful look into what we can do at grassroots level to help build trust in our grains industry," Ryan said.

"Her presentation was a good opportunity to stop and think about the messages we can get across and how we can help bridge the gap between city and country with better understanding of what we do on our farms here in Australia."

In all, there were 22 rolling sessions throughout the field day, enabling visitors to build their own individualised program for the event.

Major sponsor, Rocky River Ag was on hand with some of their machinery on show, and a wide variety of information stands from various other partners gave visitors the opportunity to talk to the companies and seek out information direct from their representatives.

And it just would not be a Hart Field-Day without plenty of food on offer from local sporting groups, and some refreshments to finish off the day.

The next event on the Hart calendar is the Spring Twilight Walk on October 15, 2019, at 5pm. Everyone is welcome. See the Hart website [www.hartfieldsite.org.au](http://www.hartfieldsite.org.au) for details.

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