

Friday, March 12, 2021



Hart helps farmers get set for seeding

Farmers were given a 'toolbox' of information ahead of the 2021 planting season, with the Hart Field-Site Group inviting them along to Clare last Wednesday for its free annual Getting The Crop In event.

The half-day program attracted a COVID-19 capacity crowd for the venue.

The always-anticipated farmer speaker was David 'Seth' Cooper of CC Cooper & Co who gave an insight into his family's expansive farming operations which now span from its heartlands in Jamestown to Western Australia near the SA border and east into far western New South Wales.

Guests heard of some of the challenges the Coopers have faced farming in 'new' country to them and in such a geographically expansive area, with an account of what has worked and what has not including some of the issues associated with farming across the border during the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2020.

The 2020 Hart Trials Results book was officially launched, with Hart trial researchers Dr Sarah Noack and outgoing Hart intern Briana Guidera sharing some of the key highlights.

Briana also presented findings from the Hart oats trial including the Kingbale IMI (imidazolinone)-tolerant variety, and the National Hay Agronomy Project, of which Hart is one of four trial sites in Australia with the aim to reduce barriers to the adoption of new oat varieties.

The Hart Trials Results book features this data and more, and is available free online, or for \$28 purchase a hard copy via the Hart website.

Staffing in rural and regional Australia remains a challenge, and Pinion Advisory senior agribusiness consultant Carlyn Sherriff shared some of her top tips for attracting and retaining staff – among them culture, communication, clarity/ownership, employing on attitude and training staff, professionalism and compliance and being an employer of choice.

Roseworthy-based Australian Grain Technologies (AGT) chief executive officer and head of breeding Haydn Kuchel gave an insightful, and at times humorous, insight into the evolving plant breeding process and just how far it has come in recent years.

Ben Harfield of Glencore Agriculture gave guests a grain market update, looking at some of the drivers of the season gone and the year ahead including China barley tariffs, food security and the flow-on of COVID-19, global feed grain demand and global pricing.

The next event on the Hart Field-Site Group calendar is the Winter Walk on July 20, where the gates will be thrown open at the field site for anyone interested in seeing the Hart trial program for 2021. See the group's website, www.hartfieldsite.org.au for more details closer to the event.

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