

## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 21 August, 2026

# All set for the Hart Field Day

With plenty of moisture in the ground, crops progressing well and all looking set for a promising season on the farm, this year's Hart Field Day on Tuesday, September 15, has a huge program planned to set growers up with practical research agronomy news.

Hart Field-Site Group executive officer Sandy Haskell (pictured below) said improved seasonal conditions were bringing a welcome lift in optimism across the state, with this year's field day program exploring how growers can make the most of the season while managing longer-term challenges facing cropping systems.

"After a few tough seasons, good rains have really brought about a change in optimism, and it's encouraging to see paddocks across the region looking so good," Sandy said.



"The trial site is looking fantastic too, so the field day is a great chance to come along, see how the trials are progressing and talk about what this season means for disease control and crop management, new innovations, and see how some of the longer-term trials are faring.

"Really importantly, it's a chance to get out and chat with other growers, and ask questions directly of the researchers and industry experts who make themselves very accessible and willing to chat with everyone who comes through the gate."

Proudly sponsored by Rocky River Ag, this year's field day offers more than 20 rolling sessions, plus static displays, allowing attendees to design a program around their interests.



Session highlights include:

- **Pushing cereal yield frontiers:** Dr Kenton Porker will explore how to reach or push our water limited yield potential, looking at trial work focussed on crop type, canopy structure, sowing timing, genetics, nitrogen and sowing rates.
- **Crop disease in focus:** Dr Hari Dadu, Molly Edmondson and Dr Tara Garrard will share strategies for managing cereal and pulse diseases, including net form net blotch and ascochyta blight.
- **The brome grass battle:** Gurjeet Gill and Ben Fleet will unpack herbicide resistance, seed dormancy and strategies for improving brome grass control.
- **New pre-emergent tools and challenges:** Sam Kleeman and Finn Sullivan-Llewellyn will look at new pre-emergent tools, declining herbicide efficacy and the future of weed management.
- **Managing weeds in lentils:** Ben Smith will cover volunteer Clearfield® canola and broadleaf weed control, including post-emergent options and a knockdown demonstration.
- **On-farm biodiesel production:** Morgan Hunter will speak about the technology, how it works and its capabilities, including a technology demonstration.
- **Building soil resilience:** Kaidy Morgan and Craig Liddicoat will explore amendments to improve soil water and fertility.
- **Common sense safety:** Shay Clifford will share practical advice on farm safety, emergency planning and incident response.
- **Revegetation made easy:** Elly Pratt will look at how to establish, improve or maintain revegetation areas.

The Hart Field Day will be held on Tuesday, September 15, with gates open at 9am, the official opening at 10am and first sessions starting at 10.30am.



Admission is \$45 (\$15 for students), which also includes a Hart Field Day Guide featuring articles and information from each session on the program.

Food, coffee and drinks will be catered by local community groups on-site (please note, some vendors take cash only).

The Hart trial site is 10 kilometres north of Blyth, just off the Blyth to Brinkworth Road. Bus and group tours are welcome, with organisers encouraged to contact Hart ahead of the event.

Tickets on sale Monday, August 24, and early purchase is encouraged.



Online ticket sales will remain open until lunchtime on September 15, but pre-purchase is encouraged to fast-track entry on the day.

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