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## Hart Field-Site Group welcomes Emma Pearse as new regional intern

The Hart Field-Site Group has welcomed Emma Pearse as its new regional intern for 2018 while farewelling 2017 intern Dylan Bruce, who says he leaves with a load of experience and networks under his belt to continue his career in grains research.

The regional internship has been jointly funded and supported by the Hart Field-Site Group, South Australian Grains Industry Trust (SAGIT) and South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

Emma grew up on a farm at Miling, Western Australia, and comes to the Mid North with a Bachelor of Science (Major in Natural Resource Management) with Honours from the University of Western Australia.

Emma said she was interested in all aspects of agriculture, but had a particular passion for soil biology, especially in finding ways to better utilise what is naturally available in the soil.

Emma will work alongside Hart Field-Site Group's research and extension manager Dr Sarah Noack in trial planning and design, monitoring, analysis and communication of research to growers, and will be employed by the Hart group until March 2019.

"I am particularly interested in research and development of agricultural practices and technology aimed towards enabling increased production whilst ensuring environmental externalities are minimised," Emma said.

"Ultimately I would like to contribute to Australian agriculture by ensuring the land we now farm will still be productive for various farming practices in years to come.

"One great interest of mine is enhancing the use of soil biology in cropping and increasing the utilisation of the natural cycles within the soil."

Emma will take an active role in assisting with wheat time of sowing trials, a GRDC-funded trial looking at precision seeder technology, and legume inoculation research among others.

She said she had settled into the role and was enjoying the opportunity to get a "clearer view of the function of a grower group as the interface between the research and farmers" as well as learning more about farming in the Mid North.

"I'm really enjoying it," Emma said.

“I’ve already met so many people in the Hart area and learned so much about the ins and outs of the function of the group.

“It has been great having a very hands-on role with all aspects of the job and I’ve already had plenty of opportunity for networking even though I have only been here a month.

“I am loving learning about the area – including the challenges of farming here, the different systems such as paddock preparation and types of crops. It is quite different to where I am from so it’s been great for me to see and broaden my knowledge of broad acre farming.”

Hart Field-Site Group’s 2017 regional intern, Dylan Bruce, will continue working in grains research having taken up a position with SARDI in Clare.

He said working as Hart’s regional intern last year had given him a great start in his career in agriculture.

“The Hart Regional Internship provided me with an opportunity to take what I learned during my undergraduate and Honours studies at university and apply it in the field,” Dylan said.

“It also gave me a holistic insight into applied grains research, improving my research and extension skill set and developing my connections within the industry to benefit my future employment potential.”

**Media contact:**

HFSG research and extension manager Sarah Noack 0420 218 420.