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MEDIA RELEASE

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AGRONOMY TRIAL RESULTS LAUNCHED ONLINE AT HART SEMINAR

The Hart Field-Site Group launched its 2013 trial results book at the *Getting the Crop In* seminar in Clare last Wednesday and, in a first for the group, announced that it is now available to download free online.

The new online format complements the trials book that is still available in hardcopy, and Hart Field-Site Group chairman Justin Wundke says it gives readers the opportunity to choose a format that best suits their needs.

“The online format has been introduced to provide easy-access to our agronomy trial results to everyone in the agricultural community, not just our members,” Mr Wundke said.

“It means the information can be accessed free, at any time, anywhere and gives readers the opportunity to either download the whole trials book, or just read the trials that are of particular relevance to them.

“The trials book is still available in hard copy for those readers that prefer to have it on hand, but the online format just provides another option for access to information.”

The Hart Field-Site Group trials results from 2009-2013 are now available online at www.hartfieldsite.org.au

Last year’s agronomy trial results were launched and explained by trials manager Sarah Noack as part of last week’s Hart Field-Site Group 2014 *Getting the Crop In* seminar that attracted about 140 farmers and industry representatives.

Other keynote speakers included Pulse Australia chairman and Australian Milling Group chief executive officer (CEO) Peter Wilson from Toowoomba, Queensland, who encouraged growers to grow more pulses in 2014 as well as giving an interesting insight into global market competitors and his goal as CEO to develop more premium markets for pulses.

Parkes farmer and Nuffield scholar Bruce Watson gave an insightful presentation into farming operations on the 3200-hectare central New South Wales property he runs with his father and brother-in-law, including the challenges of volatile summer rainfall and their foray into summer cropping, using soil moisture capacitance probes, and what they have learned about frost damage.

Event sponsor, Rabobank’s Global Financial Markets representative Andrew Tasker from Perth, spoke about the potential volatility of 2014 with his message that “marketing is simple, but it isn’t easy”.

He predicts that if all goes to plan, 2014 will be less volatile because of world production, but warns that even small factors can make a big difference and encouraged farmers to keep abreast of markets and prices.

“We don’t want to sit back and wait for those small factors to happen,” he said.

“Marketing is simple, but it isn’t easy. I’d encourage farmers to know what a price means to their business and be more pragmatic and realise a good price is a good price because it is profitable for their business.”

Rabobank Clare branch manager Matthew Butler spoke about the ‘Future of Farming: the rise of the rural entrepreneur’, including the five main challenges to farmers – social enabling factors, succession, sustainability, supply chain and social media/science. He also spoke about Rabobank’s FX exchange program to encourage city youth into rural careers, and community links with the Royal Flying Doctor Service to support rural health services.

Ever-popular presenter, SARDI New Variety Evaluation senior scientist Rob Wheeler gave a comprehensive rundown on variety performances of wheat and barley in 2013, as well as some of the new varieties due for release.

One interesting trend he highlighted was the dominance of Mace wheat production in 2013, making up 46 per cent of receivals to Viterra/Glencore.

Mr Wheeler said we had not before seen such dominance of a wheat variety and warned growers to be vigilant of stripe rust in Mace.

The Hart Field-Site group will hold its AGM at 5pm on April 1 at the Sevenhill Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend and anyone interested in taking up a committee position is encouraged to flag their interest by contacting secretary Sandy Kimber on email admin@hartfieldsite.org.au

For more information see the Hart Field Site Group website www.hartfieldsite.org.au .

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