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GGA Newswire - February 2009 - 38th Edition

Contents

To easily navigate around *Newswire*, click on the links below.

- [GGA News](#)
- [General News](#)
- [Workshop Opportunities](#)
- [Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Expressions of Interest](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)

Dear [##_people_fname#](#),

Welcome to the new look Newswire! As always, we would love to hear your views. The GGA are offering a ticket to the Partners in Grain Butterfield Beef and Beer event for the best suggestion of how the GGA can improve our communication to you, so send your emails to the Editor, sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au.

The quiet time of year is now well and truly over and opportunities for 2009 are pouring in. This edition of Newswire contains many funding opportunities for you and your grower group, so be sure to check out the Funding Opportunities section, and contact the GGA if you require any help.

GGA News

Grain & Graze Grows

As featured in the previous edition of Newswire, the GGA is currently carrying out planning activities for the next phase of Grain & Graze in WA.

The 18 member planning team including farmers, researchers, consultants and catchment council representatives have met twice, developing a project outline with five intermediate outcomes and associated practice changes most likely to lead to the longer term goal of increased whole-farm profitability, sustainability and ground cover. This project attempts to focus on the specific areas where Grain and Graze can provide the most value for mixed farmers in WA.

We are now currently developing a suite of activities which would best deliver these outcomes to farmers. The project will be submitted to the GRDC and MLA by February 20th, and will hopefully become part of a bid for a national Caring for Our Country project.

2009 Scholarship

University of Western Australia fourth-year agricultural science students, Tristan Cornwall and Nadine Hollamby, have been awarded the 2009 Grower Group Alliance Student Scholarships.

Aimed at creating closer partnerships between undergraduate students and grower groups, the two scholarships are awarded annually on a basis of the applicant's honours research project idea and its ability to be linked with a grower group and its relevance to current agricultural industry needs.

Mr Cornwall's project will screen some registered herbicides applied immediately before sowing, for use with low disturbance disc seeders, to establish crop safety and weed control efficacy, in collaboration with WANTFA. Miss Hollamby's project will focus on a new salt tolerant cereal created by crossing bread wheats with sea barleygrass, comparing a new amphiploid to current wheat varieties, in association with UWA and the Future Farm Industries CRC.

For more information, contact Susan Hall, P: 6488 7937, E: sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au.

Caring for Our Country

The GGA has been talking with member groups about Caring for our Country (CfoC) proposals over the past few months, and some good linkages and synergies are being established.

If you would like any help from the GGA, from helping find partners, a review of your application or just a chat about what you are doing, feel free to contact us.

[«Back to top](#)

General News

Butterfield Beef and Beer

Farmers from around the state can down a glass of boutique beer and a juicy steak while learning more about what happens to their raw products off the farm, at the Butterfield Beer and Beef event being held in Perth on Friday 27th February.

Organised by Partners in Grain (PinG), the event will emphasise the importance of quality raw products, with a tour of the Joe White Malting facility in Welshpool, before a meal featuring Butterfield Beef from Borden, with matching beers, at the Feral Brewery in the Swan Valley.

The tour and dinner costs \$60, and RSVPs must be received by 17th February. PinG is also looking for expressions of interest from groups or communities who would like to host the event in their area. For more information, contact Julianne Hill, P: 9838 1997, E: jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au.

NACC Hosts NRM State Conference

The Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) will host the State Natural Resource Management conference, 'Changing Environments - New Challenges for the Living Country', from 27th – 30th October in Geraldton.

NACC are now seeking presenters on a range of topics which address the theme of Changing Environments across the quadruple bottom line of environment, economics, culture and society.

For more information, contact Jackie Gill, P: 08 9964 9774, E: ctc@nacc.com.au.

Red Card for the Red Fox

Landowners are encouraged to get involved in baiting and shooting of foxes and rabbits in March, as part of the 2009 effort of 'giving the red card to the red fox'. The fox control program has run every autumn since 2004. Interested participants should contact their local landcare group or shire, who are organising activities in line with community priorities.

Stockbrands is also offering a bounty for each fox and cat shot from 20th – 22nd February and 20th – 22nd March, with proceeds going to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

For more information or to become involved, [click here](#) or contact central coordinator Sally Thomson, P: 9861 2222, E: sthomson@agric.wa.gov.au.

Limited Finance Farming

GRDC has launched a 2009 Planning Guide for Farmers with Limited Finances. The guidelines have been developed to help farm businesses plan a low-cost/low risk-strategy designed to return a modest profit while maximising the chances of business survival. For more information, or to download the booklet, [click here](#).

Pastures Australia

Pastures Australia, a joint venture for investment in the genetic improvement, management and adoption of pasture plants across Australia, have a new website. For all Pastures Australia information, [click here](#).

[«Back to top](#)

Workshop Opportunities

De-mystifying Precision Agriculture

SEPWA are holding a precision agriculture (PA) training in Esperance as part of their GRDC-funded PA project, on 19th March for consultants and industry and 20th March for farmers.

Run by Roger Mandel of Curtin University and Roger Lawes of CSIRO, the course will include the 'how-to's' of PA, economics, software systems, explaining equipment and jargon and the process of using yield data and other information to make prescription maps.

The course is free and is the first in a series to be held in the next three years. To register your interest, contact Nigel Metz, P: 9083 1111, E: nigel@sepwa.org.au.

Pasture Cropping Workshops

Pasture and no-kill cropping is the focus of a two-day course being held in Kojonup on 23rd and 24th March and Geraldton on 26th and 27th March by Evergreen Farming and NACC.

The hands-on course, presented by Colin Seis, Bruce Maynard and Angus Maurice, is aimed at farmers who wish to encourage natural ecological processes to produce crops within grasslands, covering the theory and practice of successful pasture cropping.

The course costs \$550 and eligible growers will receive the 50% FarmTraining discount. For more information or to register, [click here](#) or contact Charlene Hutchinson, P: 9475 0753, E: admin@agvivo.com.au.

Gene Technology Workshops

CSIRO and Agrifood Awareness Australia Ltd are holding two of their popular, hands-on gene technology courses in WA in April.

The two-day course will look at the science and regulation behind gene technology and give participants an understanding of gene technology laboratory techniques, including DNA extraction, gene isolation and gene transfer. They will explore the advances currently provided by gene technology, future research opportunities and the regulatory system underpinning gene technology research.

The courses will run in Esperance on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st April, and Geraldton on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd April. For more information on costs and registration, contact Nadja Moritz, P: 02 6273 9535, E: NadjaMoritz@afaa.com.au.

Science Under Threat: IOA Lecture

Dr Doug Edmeades will present the first Institute of Agriculture lecture for 2009, on Tuesday 3rd March from 5pm.

Dr Edmeades will discuss why science is under threat and what must be done, exploring modern philosophies, politics and their impact on science funding policies.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact the Institute of Agriculture, P: 6488 4717, E: ioa@fnas.uwa.edu.au.

Understanding Grain Markets

The Understanding Grain Markets courses are being run regionally again in 2009. For the full list of dates and locations, [click here](#), or contact Jill Davies, P: 0437 707 396, E: jdavies@agric.wa.gov.au.

Future Farm Business Workshop

See the effects of farm management over 25 years in a single day, at a free workshop being held by Dr Amir Abadi from the Future Farm Industries CRC in Merredin on 17th February. Participants use a computer model to make planning, managerial and financials decisions for a hypothetical broadacre farm. The workshop can be used as a capacity building exercise for all industry stakeholders to learn the real drivers of a farm business.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Dr Amir Abadi, P: 9334 10816, E: amir.abadi@dec.wa.gov.au.

APEN Behaviour & Innovation Workshops

Dr Ian Plowman will present the 2009 APEN Roadshow, Fostering Innovation and Change, in Perth on Monday 23rd February. The workshop will look at the affects of behaviour on the adoption of new ideas.

Cost is \$160 (APEN members) or \$180 (non-members). For more information or to register, visit the [APEN website](#) or contact Alison Slade, E: aslade@agric.wa.gov.au.

[«Back to top](#)

Funding Opportunities

Farm Ready

The first round of the FarmReady grants are now open, targeted towards projects from agricultural, producer and NRM groups aiming to increase their industries' self reliance and preparedness to adapt to climate change and climate variability. Grants of up to \$80 000 per year, over four years, are available as part of the Australian Government's \$26.5 million, four year program. Applications close Tuesday 17th February.

For more information, [click here](#) or call Australia's Farming Future hotline, P: 1800 638 746.

Women Leading Change

Grants of up to \$50 000 are available to support events that will build the leadership and representative capacity of women in primary industries, through the Women Leading Change grants round, part of the Australia's Farming Future initiative.

Funding could support new or additional components to an existing event that focuses on building the leadership and representative capacity of women and increasing their awareness of a changing climate, and must be matched by a cash and/or in-kind contribution from applicants. Applications close Monday 16th February.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact the Australia's Farming Future hotline, P: 1800 638 746, E: womenleadingchange@daff.gov.au.

Youth Development Fund

Projects to improve the leadership and representative capacity of young people entering or involved in primary industries should apply for funding grants of up to \$50 000 from the DAFF Primary Industries Youth Development Fund. Applications close Monday 2nd March.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Australia's Farming Future hotline, P: 1800 638 746, E: youthfund@daff.gov.au.

[«Back to top](#)

Expressions of Interest

The EOI process gives researchers and other potential grower group partners, such as agribusiness, a simple way to outline upcoming research projects, trials or workshop opportunities they wish to offer grower groups.

WANTFA & Caring for Our Country

WANTFA is searching for grower groups to partner in their Caring for Our Country proposal, to reduce the risk of wind erosion through improved soil cover in the no-till cropping system.

Interested groups will host demonstration sites focusing on local issues regarding wind erosion and soil cover. For the full details, [click here](#) or contact Merrilyn Temby, P: 9272 3529, E: merrilyn@iinet.net.au.

Understanding Grain Markets

Grower groups are invited to host Understanding Grain Markets courses in their area. The independent training for growers is offered by the Department of Agriculture WA (DAFWA), Curtin University (Muresk) in association with the National Agricultural Commodity Marketing Association – Western Australia (NACMA WA).

The UGM workshops are scheduled to be presented in regional areas in March/April and July /August 2009. For the full details, [click here](#) or contact Jill Davies, P: 0437 707 396, E: jdavies@agric.wa.gov.au.

Balance - a new product for grain growers

Custom Composts is looking to conduct market research about the willingness of farmers to include Balance in their farming systems. Three focus groups of about 10 farmers will discuss, among other things, grower attitudes and knowledge about the influence of soil biology in crop production and assess the level of interest and desire to incorporate techniques that improve soil biology.

For the full details, [click here](#) or contact Gary McKenzie, P: 0402 816 735, E: gmack@bigpond.net.au.

More details on current opportunities and the EOI process can be found on the [GGA website](#).

Calendar of Events

February 2009

Thurs 12	SEPWA Blokes Lunch: Fine tune your internal GPS	Esperance	Gemma Walker, 9083 1134 eo@sepwa.org.au
Mon 16	Liebe Group AGM	Buntine	Sophie Carlshausen, 9664 2030 liebe.sophie@bigpond.com
Thurs 19	SEPWA 'Check-up from the neck up' workshop	Esperance	Gemma Walker, 9083 1134 eo@sepwa.org.au
Mon 23 - Wed 25	Pasture to Pocket Grazing Management Course	Kalbarri	Jane Bradley, 9964 9774 ipm@nacc.com.au
Thurs 26 - Sat 28	Pasture to Pocket Grazing Management Course	Three Springs	Katherine Johnston, 9653 1266 tipo2@nacc.com.au

March 2009

Wed 4	WANTFA Conference	The Vines, Swan Valley	Kaye Phillips-Webb 0427 223 395 kaye@wantfa.com.au
Thurs 5	Facey Group Trials Presentation Evening	Wickepin	Carmen Bayley, 9888 1223 admin@faceygroup.asn.au
Thurs 5	SEPWA Manging and Retaining Employees Workshop	Esperance	Gemma Walker, 9083 1134 eo@sepwa.org.au
Fri 6	SEPWA Harvest Debrief, AGM and Annual Graingrowers' Dinner	Esperance	Gemma Walker, 9083 1134 eo@sepwa.org.au
Thurs 12	SEPWA 'Fine tune your internal GPS' workshop	Hopetoun	Gemma Walker, 9083 1134 eo@sepwa.org.au
Tues 17	Evergreen/WA Lucerne Growers Pastures for Profit	Mt Barker	Charlene Hutchinson, 9475 0753 admin@agvivo.com.au
Thurs 19	Evergreen/WA Lucerne Growers Pastures for Profit	Dongara	Charlene Hutchinson, 9475 0753

			admin@agvivo.com.au
Fri 20	Evergreen/WA Lucerne Growers Pastures for Profit	Wickepin	Charlene Hutchinson, 9475 0753 admin@agvivo.com.au
Wed 25 -Fri 27	WAFarmers Annual Conference	Perth Football Club, Lathlain	Chris Marris, 9486 2100 ChrisMarris@wafarmers.org.au
Thurs 26	Facey Group Women In Agriculture Day	Wickepin	Carmen Bayley, 9888 1223 admin@faceygroup.asn.au

[«Back to top](#)

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