



GGA Newswire - May 2009 - 41st 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 Reader,

The Grower Group Alliance Newswire provides information about activities, training, field days and funding opportunities for the benefit of broadacre grower groups.

GGA News

Well, things have finally settled down in our office as groups gear up for seeding! Now all we need is the weather to go our way.

At the GGA, we are still working on the Grain & Graze project, discovering synergies with proposals from other states and looking for opportunities to collaborate. Hopefully there will be some projects ready to start within the next two months so stay tuned for the details in the June *Newswire*.

Following feedback from groups at our regional meetings, the GGA will now highlight research activities being undertaken by member groups in this and upcoming editions of *Newswire*. As always, contributions are welcome, so email Susan, sahall@fnas.uwa.edu.au.

GGA Evaluation

The Grower Group Alliance project is being independently evaluated over the next few months by Viv Read of Steady State Consulting. The aim of the evaluation is to measure the impact and benefits of the GGA to its member groups and industry partners.

Groups may be contacted by Viv in the coming weeks to participate in the evaluation process, and we would really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to answer his questions. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

New NEFF website

North East Farming Futures (NEFF) have launched their new website, <http://www.neffgroup.com.au/>. The website features information on NEFF and other grower groups within the north east agricultural region, local events, news, a forum and much more.

Visit the website here, or to contribute, contact Mia Andrews, E: neff.admin@bbnet.com.au.

17-year Lime Trial

In 2008, the Kellerberrin Demonstration Group re-opened a lime trial which was established in 1991 with three rates of topdressed limesand, at 1, 2.5 and 5 t/ha, and an unlimed control. A further 1 t/ha was applied in 2001.

Visible differences in crop growth and cleanliness were apparent at a field walk in September 2008. The unlimed plots yielded 2.9 t/ha, while the limed plots yielded up to 600 kg/ha more yield. The soil pH of the 5 t/ha plot still achieved the recommended targets of 5.5 in the surface and 4.8 in the sub-surface 17 years after application.

Precision SoilTech also examined return-on-investment, and liming was found to be profitable in all treatments.

For more information, [click here](#) or contact Chris Gazey, P: 9690 2000.

[«Back to top](#)

General News

Mulesing Survey

UWA PhD student Alex Wells is conducting a survey of WA wool producers about their opinions and intentions in regards to the proposed phase out of mulesing in 2010, as part of her PhD research.

The results will provide industry stakeholders with the information necessary to make decisions that address the concerns of WA wool growers and thus benefit the wool industry as a whole.

[Click here](#) for a copy of Alex's survey or to complete the survey online [click here](#). Surveys can be returned to Alex via email, fax or post. For more information, contact Alex at any time, P: 0423 166951, E: wellsa02@student.uwa.edu.au.

Locust Watch

Farmers should keep a watch for locust activity after summer rainfall through parts of the wheatbelt have provided green vegetation which could support a second generation of locusts to hatch and develop to maturity.

DAFWA is looking for information from farmers on the location and density of locust activity on their property or in their district in order to provide an accurate outlook for spring, and enable growers to plan their control operations well ahead of any outbreak.

Farmers should report locust activity through the early autumn period to their local Department of Agriculture district office. For more information, contact Simon Merewether, Regional Incident Manager, on 9081 3111.

e-weed email

The Department of Agriculture and Food is now compiling e-weed email updates for the 2009 season. e-weed covers emerging weed, pest and disease issues throughout the season, targeted directly at WA conditions.

e-weed can now be accessed via the DAFWA website, www.agric.wa.gov.au/eweed, or subscribe, E: e-weed@agric.wa.gov.au.

French Student Seeks Work Placement

French agronomic engineering student, Karl Pierret, is seeking work placement in WA for four months from September 2009.

He is seeking to enhance his studies in agronomy, with a particular focus on rural economy and environment. To view his CV, [click here](#) or contact Karl directly for further information, E: karl.pierret@gmail.com.

Host Families Sought

Award-winning Japanese photographer Motoi Ichihara is seeking WA wheatbelt farmers to host him throughout July and August, for his current project focusing on agriculture.

Mr Ichihara is interested in photographing general farming scenes and how Australian farmers live and work.

Mr Ichihara does speak English and is willing to meet costs of his stay. For more information, contact Matt Yamamoto, E: matt.yamamoto@agric.wa.gov.au.

[«Back to top](#)

Workshop Opportunities

Planning for Evaluation Course

Learn how to successfully plan and evaluate projects at a *Planning for Evaluation* course which is part of a joint initiative between the Department of Agriculture and Food WA and Curtin University.

Well planned monitoring and evaluation will help deliver great projects now and better projects in the future through a continuous learning and improvement approach.

The three-day course, beginning 27th May at the Technology Park Function Centre, Bentley, costs \$755. For more information, contact Brigette Lacey, P: 9690 2128, E: brigitte.lacey@agric.wa.gov.au.

WACOSS Workshops

WACOSS is running three workshops during May, targeted at community group management and marketing.

Leading Staff to Confidence and Competence - Tuesday, 5th May - will address how to increase the confidence and competence of staff to help them reach their maximum potential. [Click here](#) for the full details about this workshop.

Oh My Goodness, I'm on a Board - Wednesday, 13th May - is ideal for new committee members and will explore the roles and responsibilities of being a member of a board or management committee. [Click here](#) for the full details about this workshop.

Marketing your Not-for-Profit Organisation - Tuesday, 26th May - will focus on current marketing and how to develop and plan for the future. [Click here](#) for the full details about this workshop.

Workshops will be held at Lotteries House, West Perth, and cost \$138 for WACOSS members and \$172 for non-members. For more information, contact Lee Collis, P: 9420 7222 , E: lee@wacoss.org.au.

Expand Your Revenue Stream Workshop

Learn how to create non-fee revenue streams at a workshop from Strategic Membership Solutions, being held in Perth on 14th May.

The workshop also looks at getting existing members more involved, how to increase membership, maximise sponsorship income and how to attract more people to events and workshops.

The full day workshop costs \$499. For more information, [click here](#).

[«Back to top](#)

Funding Opportunities

Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarships

Applications are invited for 2009 Nuffield Scholarships, aimed at improving Australian agriculture's capacity to respond to growing global economic and environmental challenges.

Young farmers and farm managers have the opportunity to explore issues as they are occurring, bringing back the latest ideas from their international travels to help Australian agriculture develop strategies to meet new challenges.

Scholarships are valued at \$27,000 and cover participation in a six-week Global Focus Program, followed by a further 10 weeks of international travel as part of each scholar's individual study tour.

Scholars are selected for their farming and leadership capabilities, and potential to make a valuable contribution to Australian agriculture.

Applications close 30th June 2009. For more information, contact Nuffield Australia, P: 03

5480 0755, E: enquiries@nuffield.com.au, or [click here](#).

Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture

Nominations are open for the 2009 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, with up to \$50,000 available.

Open to those aged between 18 and 35 years, the awards support innovators with a great idea to boost Australia's agriculture industry to turn their ideas into reality.

Applications close Friday 3rd July. For more information contact the Science Awards Manager, P: 02 6272 5039, or visit www.daff.gov.au/scienceawards.

DEC Environmental Community Grants 2009

The State Government has committed \$1.53 million in grants to undertake conservation projects with environmental benefits, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable catchment management and protection of high-value areas by landholders on private land.

Community groups and individuals can apply for grants. For more information, contact DEC, P: 9334 0455, E: grants@dec.wa.gov.au or [click here](#).

BP Australia "Vouchers for Volunteers"

Volunteers who use their vehicle to undertake volunteering activities with a not-for-profit organisation could be awarded with free BP fuel to help in volunteer work. This includes grower groups, ambulance and community groups.

To be eligible, applications will be judged on compliance with entry criteria and the individual volunteering story provided, and organisations must be registered as not-for-profit and hold a current incorporated association number.

Applications close 11 May 2009. For more information [click here](#) or [apply now](#).

[«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.

Nodulaid BioStacked Technology Trial

Grower groups are sought to run comparison trials of Nodulaid BioStacked Technology against conventional stand-alone Rhizobia inoculation on legumes in order to promote plant growth and yield increases.

Expressions of interest close 15th May. For more information, [click here](#), or contact David Clegg of Becker Underwood, P: 0408 630 641, E: david.clegg@beckerunderwood.com.

[«Back to top](#)

Calendar of Events

May 2009

Mon 19 - Tues 20	Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) Workshop	Mt Lawley	Colin Holt, 0418 902 204 col@arid.com.au
Wed 27 - Fri 29	Agribusiness Training Planning for Evaluation Course	Bentley	Brigitte Lacey, 9690 2128 blacey@agric.wa.gov.au

June 2009

Tues 9 - Wed 10	NACC Soil Biology Course	Geraldton	Jane Bradley, 9964 9774 jpm@nacc.com.au
Wed 24	Liebe Group Women's Field Day	Dalwallinu	Sophie Carlshausen, 9664 2030 liebe.sophie@bigpond.com
Thurs 25	WANTFA Post Seeding Field Walk	Mingenew	Kaye Phillips-Webb, 0427 223 395 kay@wantfa.com.au

July 2009

Wed 8	WANTFA Post-seeding Field Walk	Meckering & Cunderdin	Kay Phillips-Webb, 0427 223 395 kay@wantfa.com.au
Fri 17	Partners in Grain Beef and Beer Event	Wickepin	Felicity Astbury, 9888 1223 eo@faceygroup.asn.au
Sat 18	Partners in Grain Beef and Beer Event	Jennacubbine	Julianne Hill, 9838 1997 jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au

[«Back to top](#)

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