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GGA NewsWire - April 2015

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Dear <<First Name>> <<Last Name>>

Across the GGA Desk

Someone in your office missing out on this great newsletter? Then get them to [subscribe](#) to the *GGA NewsWire* - Grower groups. Researchers. Industry. All the news. One email.'

What a month March was! It's been great to have seen so many of you at Crop Updates, GGA Regional Meetings and industry events already this year.

The GGA has recently been involved in an MLA consultation meeting, ensuring a new model for livestock RD&E priority setting and investment planning in WA delivers on what you need. It will be exciting to see this all come together over the coming months, particularly for those groups who will be interested in delivering livestock projects in the future.

Royalties for Regions investments continue to be designed and developed and you can see some updates below. We are still awaiting the approval of the Ag Science R&D Fund that will include grants for grower groups.

Planning for the GGA Annual Forum, on the 6 and 7 of August, is underway - so put this date in your diary now! Send in your ideas for training and conference sessions so we make sure we are delivering an event that you want to attend!

You will also see an opportunity to be part of a GGA Executive Officer tour to the east coast hit your inbox in the next week - we are seeking to investigate the business of running a grower group by visiting eastern states grower groups and learning how they operate and collaborate with research and industry partners.

Finally have a safe and happy Easter and all the best for a successful 2015 season! I look

GGA News

Regional Crop Updates wrap up

The end of March also sees the end of the crop updates season which is a particularly busy time for the GGA - Rebecca and Tom covered 12 grower group events from Geraldton to Esperance.

These events are a great way for the GGA to meet with grower group staff, committee and members to better understand each group's specific aims, challenges and needs for the coming year.

A brief overview from the events attended by the GGA staff can be found [here](#).

Some of the key themes that came out of the GGA crop updates roadshow were; the continued need of geographically relevant research, how to attract younger growers to join grower groups and encourage them to take up leadership roles, and how groups can better share information around key projects.

If you have any key issues, project ideas or opportunities for collaboration that the GGA could assist you with contact Rebecca Wallis, T: 6180 5759, E: rwallis@gga.org.au.



PHOTO: Stirlings to Coast Farmers new Executive Officer Terry Duke at the groups Crop Updates event.

Crop Updates presentations and papers available online

If you didn't make it to the Agribusiness Crop Updates you can find all the papers and presentations from the event on the GIWA website [here](#).

Stress is not the problem it's the lack of recovery.

This was the key message delivered to Wheatbelt farmers by Mark McKeon, a leading work-life balance speaker, who has been touring the state in Grower Group Alliance's (GGA) Biannual Speaker Series in partnership with Partners in Grain (PinG).

Speaking at eight regional events, Mark highlighted the importance of developing and maintaining a good work-life balance and encouraged growers to take time to recover from the stress of peak periods such as seeding and harvest.

With grain growing areas of WA experiencing increasingly unpredictable climatic conditions and margins decreasing, the business of farming is an inherently stressful one. With this in mind, Mark discussed how to create more time, with his basic strategy to self-invest and achieve more.

For the full story [click here](#) or for more information on guest speaker support contact Rebecca Wallis, T:6180 5759, E:rwallis@gga.org.au.

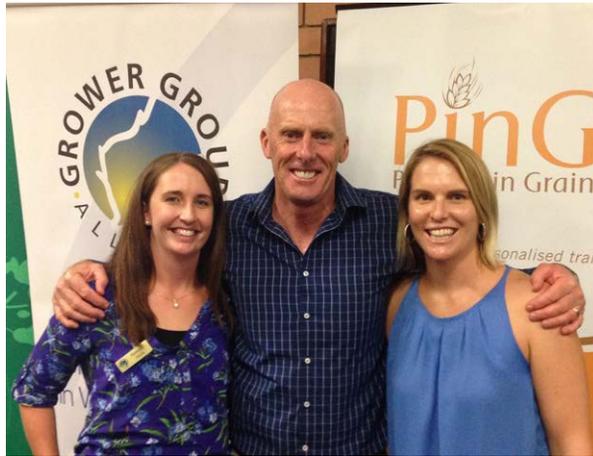


PHOTO: Mark McKeon (center) with Rebecca Wallis, Grower Group Alliance (left), and Erin Green, Partners in Grain (right), at the NEFF Regional Crop Updates event in Mullewa.

General News

GrainsWest set to boost WA's Grains R&D Capacity

A key element of DAFWA's, Royalties for Regions funded, Boosting Grains R&D project is the proposal to establish a not-for-profit company currently known by the working title of GrainsWest.

It is envisaged that GrainsWest will carry out R&D activities, primarily in the agronomic and related farming systems sphere, for the benefit of the WA grains industry.

Collaboration will be a key feature of GrainsWest with opportunities for government, agribusiness, researchers and grower groups, to identify new and better ways to collaborate to improve the international competitiveness of the industry, with the aim of doubling the value of the grains sector by 2025.

This project is still in its infancy and there is still much work to be done to turn the current conceptual model into a reality. It will also require the further approval of the Minister, the Treasurer and the WA Government.

For more information [click here](#) or to comment on the project contact Kerrine Blenkinsop, E: kerrine.blenkinsop@agric.wa.gov.au.

eConnected Grainbelt - Have your say!

The eConnected Grainbelt, a DAFWA lead Royalties for Regions project, is aiming to:

- Allow better flow of information between grain growers, consultants, buyers, suppliers, researchers, weather data providers and other industry participants
- Join with industry partners to make better decision support tools using this information
- Build capacity in accessing and using electronic tools for decision making

Go to the DAFWA [Community Engagement site](#) to learn more, make suggestions and ensure the project delivers what you need. For more information about the project [click here](#) or contact Art Diggel, E: econnectedgrainbelt@agric.wa.gov.au.

Focus paddock data show WA crop rotations are on the money

Use of canola at the expense of legumes, as the major cereal break in WA crop rotations, has not hampered wheat productivity in a five-year study of 184 paddocks.

Canola is helping to keep soilborne diseases such as rhizoctonia bare-patch and fusarium crown rot in check, but is having a negative impact on Root Lesion Nematodes (RLN) levels.

These are major findings from the DAFWA Focus Paddock project, funded by GRDC, for the cropping seasons 2010 to 2014.

For more information [click here](#) or contact Martin Harries, T: 9958 8553, E: martin.harries@agric.wa.gov.au.



PHOTO: DAFWA Researcher Martin Harries standing Canola focus paddock (Source: Coxinall)

OH&S considerations during seeding

Seeding time is a risk period throughout the wheatbelt. Before rushing to get the crop in, it's not just good practice, but it is the law to stand back and assess the risk involved in each task.

With the increase of seasonal labour from overseas and other workers with limited farming experience now being employed in the agricultural sector, training, instruction and supervision is becoming increasingly necessary.

Work Safe has a quick check list to help make sure grower are meeting there obligations. [Click here](#) for the list alternatively [click here](#) for more on farm OH&S tips, or contact Steve Taylor, Prompt Safety Solutions, for more information, T: 0417 907 512, E: stevetaylor@highway1.com.au.

DAFWA Grains Highlights 2013-2014

DAFWA have released a publication highlighting the project work of the Grains Industry Directorate over the past two years.

The Grain's Highlights publication provides growers and industry stakeholders with an overview of the directorates key projects and how they are supporting the continued growth in profitability of WA's farmers.

The publication can be accessed [here](#) or is available in hard copy on request - contact Jennifer Garlinge, T: 9368 3501, E: jennifer.garlinge@agric.wa.gov.au.

Trials shed light on harvest weed seed control

The three primary harvest weed seed control systems (HWSC) used by South Australian and West Australian growers have been found to reduce ryegrass emergence the following year by 55-58%.

Work by Dr Michael Walsh and Professor Stephen Powles from the Australian Herbicide

Resistance Initiative (AHRI) has also found that all these HWSC systems, chaff carts, narrow windrow burning and the Harrington Seed Destructor (HSD), have similar rates of success.

HWSC control techniques are a critical aspect of any growers integrated weed management system, as it manages plant resistance levels to key herbicide types thus allowing growers to keep their farms' weed seed bank at a manageable level for a long period of time.

For more information [click here](#), or contact Dr Michael Walsh, T: 6488 7872, E: michael.walsh@uwa.edu.au.



PHOTO: Local growers investigating the Harrington Weed Seed Destructor, a popular HWSC system.

Bayer launches prosaro decision support tool

In order to assist growers to make better decisions around blackleg management in canola, Bayer Crop Science has launched its Pasaro Scale tool. The tool, based on localised real time weather data and DAFWA's Blackleg Sporacle model, aims to help predict the likelihood of an infection and will assist growers when making decisions around tactical foliar fungicide applications.

[Click here](#) to access the tool.

Make autumn worm control a priority

Sheep producers are reminded to control sheep worms now to prevent problems over winter and spring. Autumn is a critical time for worm control as worm burdens at the end of April determine the risk of winter and spring worm problems.

For more information [click here](#) or contact Dr Brown Besier, T: 9368 3937, E: brown.besier@agric.wa.gov.au.

Opportunities

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
No events this month			

2016 Nuffield Scholarships now open!

Nuffield is Australia's premier scholarship for primary producers. People between the age of 28-40 (there is some flexibility around age) who is involved in farming as an owner, manager or active member of the business is invited to apply.

Owen Brownley Youth Fund

RAIN has recently established a scholarship fund to support young people working or studying in the agriculture.

The fund will provide up to \$2000 to support their studies or assist with costs

To find out more [click here](#) or contact Jim Geltch, T: 03 5480 0755,
E: enquiries@nuffield.com.au.
Applications close Tuesday 30 June.

Daily Grain workshop opportunity

Daily Grain is Western Australia's leading grain price discovery platform and grain marketing management system.

Daily Grain is offering free workshops to grower groups to teach their members on how to use the system.

Workshops can be run as a stand alone event or incorporated in to a large event. The workshops will cover setting up your top 5, using the calculator, marketing platform and contract optimiser and understanding price dissemination.

For more information about Daily Grain [click here](#) or to arrange a workshop contact Corey Lee, T: 9416 6244, E: clee@dailygrain.com.au.

Want to learn how to design an effective survey?

WACOSS is hosting a designing survey seminar that will focus on creating surveys that are focused, purposeful and valid, on Thursday 16 April. The course will provide a summary of the key design and ethical issues to be considered in developing and implementing good surveys.

For more information and to see what other training opportunities available through WACOSS [click here](#), or contact Bree Van Haeften, T: 9420 7222,
E: training@wacoss.org.au.

for conferences and personal development.

For more information [click here](#), or for donations and other inquires contact Elisa Spengler, T: 9838 1081,
E: rainoffice@westnet.com.au.

Building a skilled leadership group - Free Webinar

As part of their 'creating and inspiring rural community leadership and engagement' initiative (CIRCLE), FRRR is hosting a free webinar, Thursday 16 April, to help small rural community groups develop leadership skills.

The webinar will give insight into how individuals can harness the experience they have, identify any gaps and continue to grow as leaders in their organisations.

To register [click here](#) or for more information contact FRRR, T:03 5430 2399, E: info@frrr.org.au.

SAVE THE DATE: GGA Annual Forum Thursday 6 - Friday 7 August 2015!

Funding Opportunities

GRDC Request for Tender: Regional Development and Communication Services

Tenders are invited for an 'investment services panel' being established by GRDC to help quicken its response to issues restricting grower profitability.

All grower groups, farming systems groups, research providers, agribusiness providers and other relevant parties are encouraged to submit tenders for a chance to become a preferred supplier to the GRDC.

For more information [click here](#), or contact Robyn Hodgkin, T: 02 6166 4500, E: robyn.hodgkin@grdc.com.au. Applications close Monday 20 April.

Wheatbelt NRM Regional Landcare Facilitator Grants

Grants of up to \$500 are available for community groups to build their capacity for undertaking NRM activities in the Avon Wheatbelt Catchment. Grants can assist groups in the following areas:

- Financial assistance in running an event;
- funding to send a member relevant conference; or to
- purchase equipment which relates to NRM in the Avon Wheatbelt Catchment.

For more information [click here](#) or contact Leigh Whisson on T: 9670 3100, E: lwhisson@wheatbeltnrm.org.au. Applications close Friday 24 April.

GRDC Industry Development Awards

GRDC is currently revamping its Industry Development Awards Program. GRDC will be inviting applications when the revamp is complete, which will include; selection criteria, closing dates, reporting and payment details.

Details about the program are expected to be announced this month. More information available on the GRDC [Website](#).

National Landcare Awards: Nominations Open

Nominations for the National Landcare awards are now open, with nine national categories ranging from awards for groups, staff or member of the community.

The category most relevant to grower group members is the award for Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices.

For more information on the National Awards [click here](#) or contact Natalie Moore, T: 9368 1366, E: natlie.moore@agric.wa.gov.au. Entries close Sunday 31 May.

Grower Group Spotlight

Nyabing Farm Improvement Group assesses a new approach to soil acidity amelioration

With soil acidity being continually identified as a key yield constraint throughout the wheatbelt, growers are continually looking for immediate and cost effective options to raise soil pH.

Through a Caring for Country funded project, the Nyabing Farm Improvement Group (NFIG) sought to investigate the efficacy of liquid calcium products compared to limesand in ameliorating soil acidity issues.

Liquid calcium products, Calsap and Calbud, were assessed as a temporary amelioration for soil acidity when banded below the seed with Flexi N and granular fertiliser and compared to lime sand broadcast prior to seeding.

It was found that Calsap and Calbud did not change the top soil pH at 12 weeks after seeding.

Lime sand (83.5% neutralising value) when broadcast prior to seeding at 4t/ha increased soil pH at 0-10cm significantly at 3 months and 9 months 0.37 to 0.92 after application as compared to the untreated at pH 4.5. Lime sand at 2t/ha increased the pH by 0.3 and 0.5 units at the 0-10cm depth, but was only significantly different 9 months after application.

At the end of the year the soil pH was significantly higher in the furrow than the interrow.

There was no increase in grain yield, screenings or protein from any applied treatments, despite a lift in pH by 0.58 and 0.92 in the seeded furrow by lime sand.

Further monitoring is planned for the 2015 season to determine pH changes in the top soil and sub soil.

Assessing Liquid Calcium as Temporary Amelioration for Soil Acidity: Soil pH Results Year 1					
Sample Point	Sample Date	Ridge		Furrow	
		13 August 2014	27 January 2015	13 August 2014	27 January 2015
Days After Sowing		82	249		
Treatment					
0-10 cm depth	Untreated	4.80 bcd	4.48 efg	4.52 cd	4.50 cd
	Calbud 3L/ha applied in furrow at seeding	4.65 def	4.48 efg	4.55 cd	4.42 cd
	Calbud 6L/ha applied in furrow at seeding	4.52 efg	4.45 efg	4.5 cd	4.52 cd
	Calsap 10L/ha applied in furrow at seeding	4.55 efg	4.40 efg	4.68 bc	4.38 d
	Calsap 20L/ha applied in furrow at seeding	4.68 d	4.50 efg	4.5 cd	4.48 cd
	2t/ha Lime Topdressed	5.00 ab	4.62 ef	4.88 b	5.08 b
4t/ha Lime Topdressed	5.18 a	4.95 abc	4.89 b	5.42 a	
10-20 cm depth	Untreated	4.35 g	4.38 g	Not sampled	
	Calbud 3L/ha applied in furrow at seeding	4.42 fg	4.52 efg		
	Calbud 6L/ha applied in furrow at seeding	4.35 g	4.45 efg		
	Calsap 10L/ha applied in furrow at seeding	4.38 g	4.50 efg		
	Calsap 20L/ha applied in furrow at seeding	4.35 g	4.50 efg		
	2t/ha Lime Topdressed	4.42 fg	4.48 efg		
	4t/ha Lime Topdressed	4.40 fg	4.58 d-g		
L.S.D. (5% level)		0.25		0.27	

TABLE:

pH Results for the NFIG soil acidity amelioration trial.

Calendar of Events

To view the full GGA Calendar of Events click [here](#), or subscribe to the fortnightly email click [here](#).

To view the full Grower Group Alliance Calendar of Events, please go to the [GGA Website](#)

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