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GGA NewsWire - August 2014

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

Across the GGA Desk

Have you RSVP'd for the GGA Annual Forum yet?

As an industry, we seem to be busier than ever - but don't let that stop you from joining 100 like-minded grower groups, industry and staff at the GGA Annual Forum 20-21 August!

We have spent the past two weeks following up with group's requests and key issues from the GGA Regional Meetings held earlier this year. Have we missed anything? Requests and support are available from the GGA year-round, so give us a call (or drop in to our office!) at any time.

GGA News

GGA Annual Forum - is this the best program yet?

Have you got your RSVP in for premier event for grower groups for 2014? Still not convinced? Let us tempt you...

Grower groups kick off with a tour of the agriculture facilities at Murdoch University, before Professor Ray Fells, of the UWA Business School, will lead an interactive session on negotiation and influencing people.

Day two is jam-packed: key speakers including Mark McKeon, David Capper and Nigel

McGuckian, all the big R&D names (from GRDC, MLA & Royalties for Regions) and the products of their investment with panels of growers looking at grains and livestock, a closer look at China including a grower experience, washed down with a CBH-supported sundowner - and that's not all!! Check out the draft program [here](#).

Not enough? Consultants look at farm business drivers and the cross-over to the grower group business model - can your group afford to miss this? RSVP now!

Thanks to our sponsors - DAFWA, CBH Group, AEGIC, MLA and Grain & Graze 3.

Dealing with Difficult Harvest - get your copies from the GGA!

Harvest is one of the most stressful times of the year for grain growers, and in a bid to reduce the stress levels and improve the quality of WA grain, SEPWA has developed a 'Dealing with a Difficult Harvest' guide book.

Supported by the COGGO research fund, was officially launched at the SEPWA Ladies Day in Esperance last week.

Key topics include managing yourself, your staff, your business, your crops at harvest, your harvest and disaster, with expert research undertaken and farmer case studies associated with harvesting issues and crop management.

Two thousand copies of the guide will be distributed through the GGA and COGGO to grower group members in WA during spring field days. It is also available on the SEPWA - [click here](#).

Pick up copies for your group from the GGA in the office or at the Annual Forum.

Follow us on twitter!!

The GGA has recently ramped up its twitter usage, so make sure you follow [@GGA_WA](#) for all the latest grower group news & events, updates from field days and running coverage of the GGA Annual Forum!

Other groups to check out on twitter [@LiebeGroup](#), [@GroupMIG](#), [@WVG WA](#), [@ASHEEP Inc](#), [@WANTFA farming](#), [@FaceyGroup](#), [@DirtSouthern](#) & [@showusyourgrass](#).

General News

What are the drivers of practice change in land management in Australian agriculture?

ABARES Drivers of Practice Change in Australian Agriculture project (2009-2013), focused on better understanding the motivations of landholders to adopt sustainable soil and land management practices relating to cropping, grazing, native vegetation and weed management.

In particular, the report highlights results of extensive surveying of growers, where farm managers were asked about their adoption of specific land management practices and influences on their decision, as well as other factors relevant to adoption, including key barriers and participation in programs and extension activities.

To view the report [click here](#).

Grower experiences shared in non-wetting booklet

Non-wetting regularly tops the list of on-farm agronomic issues, with WA growers seeking innovative answers to address this key constraint.

The GRDC Regional Cropping Solutions Network has developed a new booklet outlining options WA farmers have adopted to deal with non-wetting soils, and advice on developing strategies to manage these soils.

The booklet outlines the four stages involved in developing a strategy including:

- Diagnosis and assessment of soil water repellence
- Determining soil types, assessing soil profiles and determining other constraints
- Assessing and where needed improving furrow sowing techniques
- Assessing and undertaking appropriate soil amelioration

To view, [click here](#). For more information contact Julianne Hill, M: 0447 261 607, E: regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com.

National Landcare Programme input sought

An online consultation survey will also open Monday 4 August, seeking input on specific aspects of the design of the regional stream of the Programme. This is the primary platform for the NRM community to share their views through response to the survey questions. The survey will be open from 4 - 29 August 2014, via www.nrm.gov.au.

[Community consultation sessions](#) invite direct interaction with Department of Agriculture staff:

- Perth Wednesday 6 August, 9:30am - 11:30am Wollaston Conference Centre, Mt Claremont
- Albany Thursday 7 August, 9:30am - 11:30am University of Western Australia, Albany

Are you a future grain leader?

Build your potential in grains industry leadership, with applications now open for the GrainGrowers Australian Grain Farm Leaders Program.

Grains growers aged between 25 and 40 years, who are keen to enhance their industry leadership capacity and develop personal and professional leadership knowledge and skills, are eligible for the fully-funded program. For more information or to apply, visit the [GrainGrowers website](#).

New app helps farmers prioritise safety

Australian farmers have been handed a new tool to help streamline safety induction procedures for new employees, with FarmSafe launching a free phone app for iPhone and Android.

Coinciding with the National Farm Safety Week, the new app will enable farmers to undertake a safety induction with one or more workers. When completed, a record of the induction and the details discussed is emailed to both the employer and employee, simplifying the record keeping process.

Click on the links to download for [iPhone](#) or [Android](#).

Weed hub a new best friend for growers and advisers

The GRDC has launched a new Integrated Weed Management Hub that takes pooling of information and resources to another level.

The IWM Hub has been developed specifically to help Australian grains industry advisers and growers find the latest weed research and management advice quickly and efficiently.

With notes summarising key aspects of weed management, links to valuable resources and self-assessment questions and answers, the IWM Hub is a fast way for growers and advisers to evaluate what they do and don't know and be directed to key resources to learn more.

To view [click here](#).

Workshop Opportunities

Grower Group Spring Field Days

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
13 Aug	Northern Agri Group Spring	Binnu	Kyra Simkin, 0427 361 078

	<u>Field Day</u>		northernagrigrp@bigpond.com
14 Aug	Mullewa Dryland Farm Improvement Group Spring Field Day	Mullewa	Tim Critch 0428 625 045
15 Aug	Kellerberrin Demonstration Group Spring Field Walk	Kellerberrin	Angie Roe, 9622 5095 ar@consultag.com.au
20 Aug	Lakes Information Farming Technology (LIFT) Group Spring Field Walk	Lake Grace	Grant Marshall, 0429 649 030
25 Aug	WANTFA Soil Amendments Field Day	Bolgart	David Minkey, 0417 999 304 david.minkey@wantfa.com.au
2 Sept	WANTFA Spring Field Day	Cunderdin	David Minkey, 0417 999 304 david.minkey@wantfa.com.au
4 Sept	Mingenew-Irwin Group Spring Field Day	Mingenew	Sheila Charlesworth, 9928 1645 sheila@mig.org.au
9 Sept	West Midlands Group Spring Field Day	Warradargee/ Eneabba	Anne Wilkins, 9651 4008 anne@wmgroup.org.au
	Jerdacuttup Top Crop Group Spring Field Day	Jerdacuttup	Elisa Spengler, 9838 1018 rainoffice@westnet.com.au
11 Sept	Liebe Group Spring Field Day	Buntine	Clare Johnston, 9661 0570 clare@liebegroup.org.au
	SEPWA/EDRS Spring Field Day	Esperance	Niki Curtis, 9083 1125 eo@sepwa.org.au
16 Sept	RAIN Spring Field Day	Ravensthorpe	Elisa Spengler, 9838 1018 rainoffice@westnet.com.au
17 Sept	Facey Group Spring Field Day	Wickepin	Felicity Taylor, 9888 1223 eo@faceygroup.org.au
	Fitzgerald Biosphere Group Spring Field Day	Jerramungup	Anne Sparrow, 9835 1127 anne@fbg.org.au
23 Sept	Lakes Grower Group Spring Field Day	Lake King	Elisa Spengler, 9838 1018 rainoffice@westnet.com.au
24 Sept	Southern DIRT Spring Field Day	Kojonup	Pip Crook, 9831 1074 eo@southerndirt.org.au
24-25 Sept	ASHEEP Pasture Field Days	Esperance	Jan Clawson, 0407 990 497 eo@asheep.org.au
25 Sept	WANTFA Long Term Systems and Soil Health Day	Cunderdin	David Minkey, 0417 999 304 david.minkey@wantfa.com.au

Opportunity for Ag Communication & Engagement workshops

Thanks to MLA and Target100's support, the opportunity is available to host an Influential Women or an Agricultural Communication & Engagement workshop for the advancement of local men and women. More than 25 workshops have been successfully delivered to over 700 participants to date.

To create sustained change and ensure workshops are delivered to responsive audiences, Influential Women has adopted an application process for community group hosts to take

Want to host a grain storage workshop?

Is phosphine resistance an issue in your area?
Got a grain storage query?

Opportunities are available for workshops ranging from a short 20-minute phosphine resistance update, to a two-hour workshop including on-farm grain storage economics, delivering practical advice on investment and operation of grain storage options to maximise grower returns while ensuring the quality of stored grain.

With a sixth incidence of phosphine resistant grain storage insects detected and destroyed in WA, the threat of more widespread

ownership of the event.

[Click here](#) to apply to host one of the six communication & leadership workshops on offer. Applications close Friday 15 August.

Your Farm Business, Your Future, Your Self - AWWWE Forum

Join the Agricultural Woman Wheatbelt East 2014 Forum on Tuesday 12 August, a fantastic day, for both professional development and networking opportunities.

The guest speakers have been carefully sourced, including Athene Lucev, Danielle England, and many more, with a focus around farm businesses, yet still relevant to all interested attendees.

[Click here](#) for more information, or contact AWWWE, M: 0400 412238, E: info@awwegroup.com.

Pasture Updates

Evergreen Farming, in partnership with MLA, presents Pasture Updates this August, with innovative topics on generating a profit from pastures and value adding to pastures, such as grazing, nutrition, species selection and management, with each event will be tailored to the local region.

- [Kojonup: Tuesday 12 August](#)
- [Moora: Thursday 14 August](#)
- [Perth: Friday 15 August](#)

For more information contact Erin Gorter, M: 0429 833 752, E: eringorter@agvivo.com.au.

resistance is still very real and presents a potential threat which could cost in excess of \$40 million annually to manage- so get in quick to ensure the safety and quality of your grain.

For more information [click here](#), or contact Ben White, T: 0407 941 923, E: ben@storedgrain.com.au.

AHRI 'More crop, less weeds' workshops

More crop, less weeds means we need to focus on the seedbank. It means achieving the lowest possible weed numbers. Because less weeds = more crop.

Hosted by the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) and WeedSmart in conjunction with Fitzgerald Biosphere Group (Jerramungup), SEPWA and DAFWA (Esperance), workshops explore a range of measures that can be incorporated into your farming system to give your crop the upper hand against weeds.

We'll discuss how leading growers have used harvest weed seed control techniques to manage their weeds, provide local simulations using the Ryegrass Integrated Management (RIM) model to target the seedbank, and investigate the glyphosate resistance threat and how weeds are evolving to bypass both herbicide and non-herbicide controls.

Kojonup - CANCELLED
[Jerramungup Wednesday 6 August](#)
[Esperance Thursday 7 August](#)

DAFWA Pest and Disease Identification Course

Update your practical skills in the identification and understanding of insect and diseases of grain crops at a DAFWA Crop Protection Group pest and disease identification course, August 18-20, for growers and consultants in WA grains industry.

For more information [click here](#), or contact Geoff Thomas, T: 9368 3262, E: geoff.j.thomas@agric.wa.gov.au.

Wheatbelt NRM Equipment Grants

Community groups can source Wheatbelt NRM grants to purchase equipment that will help their organisation grow and become more sustainable. Up to \$1000 per group is available, and eligible items include computers, printers, software, scanners, tablets, GPS devices, promotional banners etc.

For more information and to apply [click here](#), or contact Jacquie Lucas, T: 9670 3113, E: jlucas@wheatbeltnrm.org.au. Applications Friday 22 August.

Applications Extended for COGGO Research Fund

Applications have been extended for the COGGO Research Fund, available for research organisations, private companies and grower groups delivering projects clearly able to demonstrate a clear benefit to the WA grower.

The COGGO Research Fund invests in innovative R&D across the whole supply chain that can demonstrate a direct benefit to WA grain growers. A total of \$600,000 will be available for funding new projects commencing from 1st January, 2015.

The GGA is available to work with grower groups and partners in developing projects. Further information and project proposal application forms can be found [here](#), or by contacting Johanna Gastevich, T: 6262 2128, E: coggoresearchfund@giwa.org.au. Applications close Friday 29 August.

Grower Group Spotlight

Jerdacuttup Top Crop & Pasture Group

The Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN) and Jerdy Top Crop & Pasture Group collaborated to present the Jerdy Pasture Walk on Friday 20 June. Attendees were joined by Morgan Sounness, WA super fine wool grower and Kikuyu seed producer, and visited three properties with the aim of gaining a better understanding how to grow, manage and graze kikuyu pastures.

The day concluded with a quick presentation followed by some wood fired pizzas, the Jerdy Top Crop AGM and a post-seeding catch up! The event was funded by South Coast NRM and the Australian Government's Caring for our Country program.

To read the full story [click here](#). For more information or to become involved in the RAIN or Jerdacuttup Group's contact Elisa Spengler, T: , E: rainoffice@westnet.com.au.



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](#)

If you found this newsletter helpful, please feel free to send it on to your friends and fellow community groups in your area.

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