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GGA NewsWire - March 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.

Let's try and keep it short and sweet this month! We have seen many of you at regional meetings, or will be seeing you this crop updates season.

Two key issues that have arisen in February, from discussions with our groups and stakeholders, these include better sharing of trial results and reports across the network and improving scientific rigor of trials. How do you think the GGA can support this? We would love to hear your feedback!

Planning for the GGA Annual Forum, on the 6 and 7 of August, is underway - so put this date in your diary now!

GGA News

GGA Regional Meetings

The GGA has been on the road hosting our annual Regional Meetings in Katanning, Merredin and Dongara. As part of the meetings the GGA ran media training workshops facilitated by 2009 Nuffield scholar and former Country Hour presenter David Cussons.

David gave groups a theoretical overview of how the media works and what makes news, then helped attendees develop media statement writing and interview skills. Following on from the workshop groups discussed some of their highlights and challenges of 2014 as well as what was in the pipeline for the 2015 season for their group.

The regional meetings are a great opportunity for groups in the same area to come together and share experiences, develop networks and discuss new opportunities for collaboration.

There is still one more Regional Meeting to be run, which will be held in Lake King on Monday 23 March. If your group is in the area make sure you get along.

For more information contact Tom Lamond, T: 6180 5759 E: tiamond@gga.org.au.

2015 COGGO Funding Announced

COGGO has announced the recipients of its latest round of funding, with \$415,000 allocated to nine new projects, six of which hosted by grower groups. The COGGO Research Fund is financed through a voluntary levy collected, with the cooperation of grain acquisition and marketing companies, from Western Australian grain growers who are members of COGGO. Grower groups who received funding are as follows:

- **The Fitzgerald Biosphere Group:** *Frost management options to increase wheat grain quality and yield and how these strategies impact on soil erosion along the south coast of WA* - \$41,400
- **The West Midlands Group:** *Using farmer strips and electronic sensors to diagnose crop growth limitations* - \$49,220
- **South East Premium Wheat Growers Association:** *Farm scale Wi-Fi - the future of data for WA grain farmers* - \$37,231
- **North East Farming Futures:** *On farm pH adjustment trials in Zone 2* - \$49,450
- **Facey Group:** *Incorporating lime to depth on duplex wheatbelt soils* - \$35,000
- **Mingenew Irwin Group:** *Measuring, monitoring and understanding soil water holding properties to increase risk management, grower confidence and grain yield improvement, resulting in increasing returns to grain growers* - \$49,775

COGGO research funding is Western Australian specific, to fill research gaps that may not be eligible for funding by DAFWA or GRDC. For more information [click here](#) or contact Chris Wilkins, T: 0427 940 925 E: cwilkins@synergyco.com.au.

Mark McKeon Hits the Road for the GGA

Mark McKeon will be touring the state in GGA's 'Biannual Speaker' series sponsored by Partners in Grain (PinG), speaking at seven regional events about the importance of developing and maintaining a good work-life balance.

Mark runs his own business that provides conference, training and coaching services to organisations across the globe, all whilst only working 30 hours a week and taking 10 weeks of holiday a year. Mark's keynote presentation was one of the highlights at the 2014 GGA Annual Forum.

Mark will be presenting at the following locations:

- Tuesday 10th March: West Midlands Group's Crop Updates (Badgingarra)
- Wednesday 11th March: Mingenev Irwin Group (Mingenev)
- Thursday 12th March: NEFF Farming Group Crop Updates (Mullewa)
- Friday 13th of March: Bendigo Bank (Geraldton)
- Monday 16th of March: AWWG Group (Merredin)
- Tuesday 17th of March: Holt Rock Group (Hyden)
- Thursday 19th of March: Stirlings to Coast Farmers Crop Updates (Albany)
- Friday 20th of March: SEPWA Harvest Review (Esperance)

Want one of these event or know more? [Click here](#), contact your local grower group or Tom Lamond, T: 6180 5759, E: tiamond@gga.org.au.



2015 GRDC & DAFWA Agribusiness Crop Updates

The 2015 Agribusiness Crop Updates cemented itself as the premier event on grains industry calendar, with presentations on everything from the potential benefits of including winter wheat in a WA cropping system to the role industry and policy makers in developing efficient grain supply chain solutions.

Papers on the and presentations from the Agribusiness Crop Updates are available on the [GIWA website](#).

The GGA sponsored 7 growers from; SEPWA, Lakes Grower Group, MADFIG, Holt Rock, AWWE and MIG to attend, who used to opportunity to listen to the latest in grains research and network with other growers and industry.

The conference also saw the launch of the 2025+ Grains Industry Strategy, commissioned by GIWA. The strategy provides a pathway for industry to potentially double the value of the grains industry over the next 10 years. The 2025+ Grains Industry Strategy can be found [here](#).

General News

Road to Riches: Driving Investment in Western Australian Agriculture

The Roads to Riches: Driving Investment in Western Australian Agriculture was launched at the Agribusiness Crop Updates. The report, commissioned by DAFWA and completed by KMPG, focuses on how Western Australian farm business's can adapt to become 'investment ready' to be better positioned to capitalise on the increasing demand for premium food products in Southeast Asian Markets.

The full report can be found [here](#). For more information contact John Connell, T:9368 3838 E: john.conell@agric.wa.gov.au.

Blakely Paynter wins GRDC's Seed of Light

Renowned barley researcher, Blakely Paynter, has won GRDC's Western Region Seed of Light Award, which is presented to a person from each of the three GRDC regions who makes a significant contribution to communicating the outcomes of research.

Blakely has been involved in barley research with DAFWA for over 25 years, where he is currently working on a project that is developing technical information on barley cultivar performance as well as decision support tools for growers.

For more information [click here](#) or contact Blakely Paynter, T: 9690 2115 E: blakely.paynter@agric.wa.gov.au.

Grain and Graze 2014 Trial Results

The Grain and Graze 3 project released the 2014 trial booklet at the Agribusiness Crop Updates, showcasing results and case studies in each of the three themes; grazing crops, pastures in rotation, and risk management.

Grain and Graze 3 aims to boost whole farm profitability and sustainability of mixed farming enterprises across Australia. Through a range of projects, it is assisting farmers and advisers to develop new skills; make better decisions; adopt new management practices and technologies in order to deliver more productive, adaptive and resilient mixed farming systems.

To access the trial booklet [click here](#). For more information contact Danielle England, T: 0429 676 077, E: danielle@aginnovate.com.au.

GRDC Grow Notes for WA Launched

GRDC has launched the Western Region Wheat Grow Notes resource, a interactive one-stop-shop publication that brings together all the information that WA wheat growers need to remain sustainable and profitable.

The Wheat Grow Notes is the first in a series of publications targeted at the Western Region's key crop types with oil seeds, pulses and other cereals to follow. To access the Western Region Wheat Grow Notes [click here](#).



If you can't measure it, you can't manage It!

That's Esperance farmer and Nuffield scholar Chris Reichstein's motto when it comes to managing glyphosate resistance.

By being able to quantify herbicide resistance levels on his property Chris has been able to better target his Integrated Weed Management System (IWM), enabling him to better target problem weeds and preserve chemistry that still work. Chris found that as a result of his rigorous resistance testing program some of the new chemical types would not work on certain paddocks, where there were some older chemical's that would still be effective.

The targeted use of chemicals combined crop topping to prevent weed seed set and narrow windrow burring has allowed Chris to very quickly deplete weed seed banks and get on top of his problem paddocks.

For more information on how Chris and other growers manage herbicide resistance [click here](#).

GRDC appoints new WA Regional Manager

Rodger States has been appointed as GRDC's Western Region Grower Services Manager. Rogers primary role will be to facilitate the regional adaptation of GRDC's research and development, to speed up the delivery of research outcomes to growers in the western region. Roger has previously worked in crop protection and agronomy roles throughout WA, most recently with Sipcam Pacific's in the areas of product development and technical support.

For more information click here or contact Roger States, T: 0427 565 780 E: roger.states@grdc.com.au.

GRDC's Farm Business Manual Available Online

GRDC's Farm Business Manual provides grain growers with tools to help improve their business skills and better capitalise on the opportunities currently available in Australian agriculture. The manual has been broken down in to three modules that include; what do I need to know

about business to manage my farm business successfully, where is my farm business now and where do I want it to be, and how do I take my business to the next level?

Each of the modules are designed to assist a wide range of growers a various stages of there business career. To access the manual [click here](#).

Grower group input wanted

As part of the Royalties for Regions funded Boosting Biosecurity Defenses Initiative, DAFWA is seeking community feedback into how groups and individuals would like to identify and report instances of declared weed species in their community.

If you or your group would like to get on board [click here](#) for an EOI form, or contact Tamrika Lanoiselet, T: 9368 3443 E: tamrika.lanoiselet@agric.wa.gov.au.

My Soil Tool Updated

DAFWA's web based MySoils tool has been updated with more localised data to enable growers to better identify, and subsequently better target, their soil amelioration efforts.

It is estimated that unchecked sub-soil constraints cost the grains industry around \$600 million a year in lost production. To access the tool [click here](#), or contact Kelly Ryan, T: 9368 3480 E: kelly.ryan@agric.wa.gov.au.

2015 International Year of Soils

2015 is the the International Year of Soils, which aims to promote the importance of soils to all human life. The International Year of Soils has wide range of resources and promotional material available for public use on their [website](#) and there is a huge variety of events happening across the globe.

Opportunities

Regional Crop Updates

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
3 Mar	WANTFA Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Cunderdin	Lauren Celenza, 0419 908 793 lauren.celenza@wantfa.com.au
4 Mar	Liebe Group Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Dalwallinu	Sarah Tholstrup, 9661 0570 sarah@liebegroup.org.au
	West Arthur Trials Group Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Darken	Janelle Smith, 0410 233 903 watg@westarthur.wa.gov.au
5 Mar	Facey Group Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Wickepin	Brownwyn Dew, 9888 1223 admin@faceygroup.org.au
	Mingenew-Irwin Group Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Minengew	Sheila Charlesworth, 9928 1645 sheila@mig.org.au
	North Mallee Farm Improvement Group Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Salmon Gums	Andrew Longmire, stonyfell@bigpond.com
10 Mar	West Midlands Group Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Badgingarra	Anne Wilkins, 9651 4008 anne@wmggroup.org.au
	Far East Agricultural Research Group (FEAR) Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Moorine Rock	Brad Auld, 0400138346 auld14@westnet.com.au

11 Mar	Southern DIRT Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Kojonup	Pip Crook, 9831 1074 eo@southerdirty.com.au
12 Mar	North East Farming Futures Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Mullewa	Jenny Thomas, 0467 640 722 innovation@neffgroup.com.au
	Corrigin Farm Improvement Group Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Corrigin	Alison Lacey, 9881 0232 alison.lacey@agric.wa.gov.au
17 Mar	RAIN Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Ravensthorpe	Elisa Spengler, 9383 1018 rainoffice@westnet.com.au
18 Mar	Fitzgerald Biosphere Group Crop Updates	Jerramungup	Karryn Dorrell, 9835 1127 karryn@fbg.org.au
	Northern Agri Group Autumn Update	Binnu	Raylene Burns, 0408 931 924 northernagrigroup@bigpond.com.au
19 Mar	Stirlings to Coast Farmers Crop Updates: Supported by GRDC & DAFWA	Green Range	Heather Adams, 9854 1051 heatheradams.ohcg@bigpond.com
20 Mar	SEPWA Harvest Review	Esperance	Niki Curtis, 9083 1125 eo@sepwa.org.au
25 Mar	Lakes Grower Group Crop Updates	Lake King	Elisa Spengler, 9383 1018 rainoffice@westnet.com.au
31 March	ASHEEP Autumn Field Day	Esperance	Emma James, 0457 937 774 eo@asheep.org.au

GRDC Resilient Grain Leaders Program

Applications for the GRDC Resilient Grain Leaders Program are now open. The program aims to provide grain growers and industry professionals with an opportunity to build their leadership capacity through a series of workshops, webinars and networking events throughout the year.

Applications close **Friday 20 March**. For more information [click here](#) or contact Natasha Morley T:08 8841 4500
E: nmorley@ruraldirections.com.

AICD Sector Development Scholarship's

The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD), in conjunction with Commonwealth Government, is offering 40 scholarships to suitability experienced women to undertake AICD Foundations of Directorship program and Company Directors Course.

For more information [click here](#). Applications close **Monday 16 March**.

WACOSS Foundations in Governance Webinar

The WACOSS Webinar provides an overview of the legal obligations and core activities of boards and management committees. It aims to give participants a foundation in governance and best practice strategies for a functioning and effective board.

GRDC Farm Business Updates

The GRDC Farm Business Updates provides a unique forum for growers & advisers to learn from and network with leading industry professionals. The program has a broad range of topics delivered by an outstanding selection of expert speakers on topical issues, practical advice and information on key issues facing grain growers and their advisers.

Unlike the Crop Updates series that primarily focuses on delivering new agronomic research to growers and advisers, the Farm Business Updates focuses specifically on the business aspects of farming.

The events will be held at the following locations:

- Geraldton, Monday 23 March
- Merredin, Wednesday 25 March
- Katanning, Thursday 26 March

For more information [click here](#) or contact Gavin Beever, T: 03 5441 6176, E: gavin.beever@orm.com.au.

GRDC Grower and Adviser Development Program

GRDC is offering a number of opportunities for growers and advisers to be involved in activities throughout 2014 that develop their skills and leadership potential.

The Webinar will be run on Thursday 16 April. For more information [click here](#) or contact Bree Van Hafften, T: 9420 7222, E: training@wacoss.org.au.

The GRDC is now calling for expressions of interest from individual growers and advisers who are interested in undertaking technical training or attending GRDC supported conferences where these opportunities exist.

To download an EOI [click here](#) or for more information contact Carolyn Pearson, T: 02 6166 4526, E: Carolyn.pearson@grdc.com.au.

Funding Opportunities

[- Department of Local Government and Communities - Grants For Women](#)

Grants of up to \$5000 are available to community organisations to develop projects that encourage women's economic independence or help develop leadership skills. Applications close on Thursday 12 March.

[- 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. More information available on the [GRDC Website](#).

[- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal: CIRCLE Community Leadership and Engagement Grants](#)

FRRR is calling for community groups who want to build their capacity through; strengthening governance, strengthening operational capacity, increasing philanthropic support and increasing volunteer support, to apply for a CIRCLE grant. [Click here](#) to for the application guideline. Applications close Tuesday 17 March.

[- Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal: Small Grants for Rural Committees](#)

FRRR is offering grants of up to \$5000 dollars to eligible community groups. [Click here](#) to see if your group is eligible. Applications close Friday 27 March.

Grower Group Spotlight

Dirt to \$'s Cropping Challenge

The 2014 growing season marked the Canola rotation of Southern DIRT's, DIRT to Dollar's Cropping Challenge.

The challenge is based on a concept initially developed by the Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) in Victoria, where 11 teams put their agronomic skills on the line to see who can not only grow the best crop, but make the most profit.

2014 saw the AWB Nufarm team take home the trophy for both the highest yielding crop and gross margin with their RoundUp Ready GT50 canola yielding 3.31 tonnes per hectare, with a gross margin of \$962.85 per hectare.

Aside from the agronomic aspects of the competition, growers were required to market the grain that they had grown which produced some interesting results over the two years the competition has been run.

"Teams that chose to forward sell their grain in the 2013 wheat phase of the competition, tended to do a lot better than teams that chose the default price (the CBH price of the commodity as of December 31 that year), however in 2014 marketing was a less critical factor as the canola price keep on climbing late in the season" said Southern DIRT Executive Officer Pip Crook.

2014 was an exceptionally wet year in Kojonup with over 100ml of rain falling in both May and July, making timing of fertiliser application critical.

By having teams ranging from growers, agricultural college students and agribusiness providers, the challenge showcased a wide range of different approaches, but the proof has been in the pudding.

"As part of the evaluation we get a local farm consultant to run each groups numbers, what he found [the consultant] that there was no correlation between the amount for fertiliser applied and a particular group final gross margin. What seemed to be the determining factor was the timing of nitrogen applications rather than the quantity." said Pip Crook.

"This inadvertently tied in quite well with another trial the group was running with CSIRO's Dr Heping Zhang, looking a nitrogen application timing with canola in the high rainfall zone.

2015 will be the final installment of the current competition with the final rotation being a barely crop.

As for competition plans in the pipeline Pip Crook says, "the board is currently reviewing the success of the competition and will be looking to continue it [the competition] in some form in the future."

The competition is set up in a randomised complete block trial design with the final analysis being based on a 50 hectare paddock.

The top teams, their gross margins and varieties grown are as follows (places based on highest gross margin):

- 1st, AWB Nufarm: GT50 (Nuseed RR) T/Ha: 3.31 Gross Margin/Ha: \$962.85
- 2nd, Kojonup Ag Supplies: Crusher (Pacific Seeds TT) T/Ha: 2.78 Gross Margin/Ha: \$858.89
- 3rd, Denmark Ag College: GT50 (Nuseed RR) T/Ha: 2.84 Gross Margin/Ha: 801.49

For more information contact Pip Crook, T: 9831 1074 E: eo@southerndirt.org.au



PHOTO: The Winning AWB Nufarm Plot (Photo courtesy of Southern DIRT)

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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