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GGA NewsWire - November 2014

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

Across the GGA Desk

A shorter edition this month, as the industry ramps up for another harvest.

Last month the GGA attended the launch of the draft grains industry strategy, developed by GIWA, which aims to double the value of the WA grains industry by 2025. This strategy provides a great framework for the industry, however GIWA is still seeking more feedback to make sure it truly reflects your views and needs going forward. For more information about the strategy read the full article below.

With 2014 nearly over, its time to start thinking about planning for 2015. February and March are busy times for the Calendar, so make sure you send in your dates quickly to avoid clashes with other events. If needing inspiration for ideas or speakers for your events, remember the GGA is only a phone call away. We will also be supporting Mark McKeon (the GGA Forum keynote highlight!) through a regional roadshow - presenting to eight groups over a two week period. Make sure you stay tuned to see your closest location!

Finally, all the best for a safe and successful harvest! The GGA has fingers crossed for the rain to stay away and the season to finish on a strong note.



Some more field day photos!

GGA News

Would you like to join the GGA team?

The GGA is seeking a passionate, motivated Project Officer to work in building relationships, supporting extension delivery and leading communications within the WA agricultural industry.

Based within the Grains Industry Association of WA (GIWA), the Project Officer will plan and implement timely, efficient and informed communications and services to GGA network members and the wider industry; liaise with key stakeholders, including grower group members, research providers, agribusiness and funding agencies in conjunction with the Project Leader, and take a hands-on role in delivering project activities.

This role is based in Kensington and requires extensive regional travel. The successful applicant will be offered a full-time contract to 30 March 2018, with a six month probation period.

The position description and selection criteria is available [here](#). The application process requires the submission of a cover letter and CV, together with an addressed selection criteria and a one-page media release developed by the applicant and based on a scientific paper, available on enquiry to Susan Hall, M: 0400 889 036, E: shall@gga.org.au. Applications close 5pm Friday 21 November.

Roles & Responsibilities of the Grower Group Alliance

In April this year, the GGA started a new four-year project, funded by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, to connect grower groups with the relevant people, information and skills to pursue RD&E and increase opportunities to maximise the productivity and profitability of WA farmers.

In this next phase of the GGA, the project will adapt to the new funding structure and continue to focus on the needs and wants of groups in the changing agricultural R,D&E environment. The relevancy of the GGA will also continue to be driven by you, its member groups and key stakeholders.

The GGA continues to have, and maintain, the flexibility to adapt and deliver on demand of member groups, helping groups be more effective at delivering R,D&E. However, it has been identified groups also require clarity around some of the support they are able to access from the GGA.

It is the **responsibility of GGA staff** to be accessible, active, well informed and networked, in order to deliver to groups.

It is the **responsibility of groups** to engage with the GGA to drive and access what they need, keep the GGA informed of their progress, and ask for what you need!

A summary of GGA roles & responsibilities and key activities is available [here](#). The opportunity to engage in any of these opportunities and activities is open to all groups at all times. For

General News

Grains Industry Draft Strategic Plan

GIWA has released a draft WA Grain Industry Strategy 2025+ and is now seeking industry feedback. The objective of the WA Grain Industry Strategy 2025+ is to double the value of the West Australian grain industry over the next decade to 2025. The strategy was initiated by DAFWA who approached GIWA to coordinate the development of the strategy on behalf of the WA grains industry.

Developed through a six month series of industry workshops, individual meetings with growers, organisations and companies, the strategy consists of eight action areas applicable across the whole WA grains industry, and a series of commodity specific strategies for each of the major crops grown in WA - wheat, barley, oats, oilseeds (mainly canola), and pulses (mainly lupins). The industry exposure drafts can be accessed below;

- [WA Grains Industry Strategy 2025+](#) (3528 KB)
- [Commodity Specific Strategies](#) (1293 KB)

Feedback and comments are encouraged until Friday 30 January. The strategy will be launched at the 2015 Agribusiness Crop Updates. For more information contact Ian Longson, T: 6262 2128, E: info@giwa.org.au.

Stop disease and pest cycles in their tracks with crop checks this harvest

Growers are being urged to test wheat and barley crops before or at harvest that are showing signs of soilborne diseases and pests - especially fusarium crown rot, rhizoctonia bare patch and root lesion nematodes (RLN).

A blanket management strategy can't be used for all soilborne diseases and pests, so it is vital to know what is present in the paddock. The GRDC/DAFWA-developed [MyCrop 'app'](#) can assist with disease diagnosis.

For more information on the disease identification and testing [click here](#), or contact Daniel Hüberli, T: 9368 3836, E: Daniel.huberli@agric.wa.gov.au.

Sheep Industry Business Innovation Project

DAFWA has commenced a four year project to support the sheep industry to capitalise on growing markets for sheep products, especially meat. The \$10 million Sheep Industry Business Innovation project is supported by State Government Royalties for Regions funds, as part of the Seizing the Opportunity in Agriculture initiative.

Project priorities include:

- To establish dedicated export supply chains that offer the level and consistency of returns needed to restore confidence in the industry.
- To increase the on-farm productivity of market-preferred products, through better genetic selection and higher stocking and reproductive rates.
- To improve business performance by improving farm business and production skills.
- To increase access to investment, both from within and outside of the industry
- To establish the human and physical resources needed to research, develop and demonstrate the elements required to achieve success in the industry and the means of sustaining those resources into the future

For more information [click here](#), or contact Bruce Mullan, T: 9368 3578, E: bruce.mullan@agric.wa.gov.au. The GGA will continue to engage with this project, particularly around the opportunity for grower group involvement.

Grazing cereals online survey

Grazing young cereal crops is currently being practiced successfully by some sheep producers across Australia. For this to expand, failsafe grazing strategies are required.

The link below will take you to a short survey (2-3 minutes) that will provide information we need on the health of sheep grazing young cereal crops. The questions address the concerns expressed by some producers. Solutions are being developed as part of a project funded by AWI and MLA and managed by Murdoch University.

To complete the survey [click here](#). Closing date Friday 7 November. For more information contact David Masters, T: 9293 3744, E: davidmasters@bigpond.com.

Boosting Biosecurity Defences Project

The \$20 million Boosting Biosecurity Defences project is supported by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program, as part of the Seizing the Opportunity in Agriculture initiative. This is supported by additional leveraged funds from Horticulture Australia Limited, State NRM, Carnarvon Growers Association, and the Council of Grain Grower Organisations.

The wide-ranging project will address biosecurity risk assessment, early detection of declared pests and diseases, preparedness to respond to incursions of significant pests and diseases, awareness and compliance with new legislation, community engagement and the adoption of new technology.

For more information [click here](#), or contact Debra Cousins, T: 9368 3739, E: debbycousins@agric.wa.gov.au.

Diversity Era

AHRI is delivering Diversity Era, FREE online training in "more crop, less weeds", available to anyone with an internet connection.

Diversity Era was created to bring to experts to you, so that we can better understand herbicide resistance and achieve "more crop, less weeds" through diversity. This is not just another training program - Diversity Era aims to help YOU take information and turn it into profitable changes on-farm.

Over the next couple of months, AHRI will release FREE training before Diversity Era officially launches in 2015, so to stay in loop before the launch date, or to get involved, [click here](#), or contact Brogan Micallef, T: 6488 3189, E: brogan.micallef@uwa.edu.au.

Free Online Agricultural Economics Course

The School of Agricultural and Resource Economics at UWA will be offering a six week free online course on the economics of agriculture, natural resources and the environment.

Each week, a set of lecture videos, mostly between 5 and 10 minutes in length, are provided. Each module contains a quiz to help you make sure you are understanding the material. There will be a final exam. There are no prerequisites or prior knowledge needed.

For more information [click here](#), or contact David Pannell, T: 6488 4735, E: david.pannell@uwa.edu.au.

Livestock Biosecurity Network

The Livestock Biosecurity Network (LBN), an initiative of Cattle Council of Australia, WoolProducers Australia and the Sheepmeat Council of Australia, support livestock industries through engagement and extension in sound on-farm practices for livestock health, welfare and biosecurity.

A recently released video features LBN CEO Warren Clark explaining why the LBN was formed, industry links, what they can offer livestock levy paying producers, main priorities and the importance of livestock industries being well prepared for potential emergency animal diseases.

To view the video [click here](#), or for more information contact Megan Harrod, M: 0488 100 426, E: mharrod@lbn.org.au.

DAFWA Annual Report

DAFWA annual report outlines the department's operations, performance and achievements for each financial year. To view the report click [here](#).

GRDC Investment Summary now available

A comprehensive overview of GRDC funded investments that are helping drive the production capacity and profitability of the Australian grains industry has now been released and is available [here](#).

New reference guide for Barley growers

Western Australian grain growers have access to a new reference guide to assist in decision making about which barley variety they should grow to deliver the best economic return. DAFWA's Barley Variety Sowing Guide for WA 2015 is available [here](#).

2015 Canola Variety Guide

The DAFWA/GRDC Canola Variety Guide is now available [here](#). For more information contact Jackie Bucat, T: 9368 3481, E: jackie.bucat@agric.wa.gov.au.

Workshop Opportunities

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
No field days this month			

GIWA Seeding Success

Be updated on what is happening in each of the port zones and learn about the disease risks for 2015, at Seeding Success 2015, on Thursday 27th November at Tompkins on Swan.

Topics will include noodle wheat update, new wheat varieties, regional roundup (pest, disease, weeds, agronomy) and more!

[Click here](#) to register. For further information contact Shai Dunbar, T: 6262 2128, E: sdunbar@giwa.org.au.

Persuasion Skills Workshop - how to influence change

The workshop is designed for the agriculture and NRM industries, for people working farmers to encourage the implementation of new processes, products or technologies on their farms.

Delivered by Bruce Howie and Jeanette Long, the two day workshop will be held Tues 17 & Wed 18 February in Perth.

For more information [click here](#), or contact Bruce Howie, T: 0418 254 668, E: Bruce.Howie@c-qual.com.

AAAC Outlook

The 2014 Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC) Outlook Day will be held on Friday 28 November at the Hyatt Regency, Perth, and will cover issues including:

- Corporate Investment in Kununurra
- Global Fertiliser Update
- Wheat, Barley and Canola Outlook
- Beef & Wool Update
- Field Robotics on the Farm

To view the program or register, click [here](#). For more information contact Donna Sykes, T: 1800 644 855, E: info@aaacwa.com.au.

Grower group staff can access a \$150 GGA subsidy to attend the AAAC Outlook. Contact Rebecca Wallis, T: 6180 5759, E: rwallis@gga.org.au for more information.

Save the Date: Perth Agribusiness Crop Updates

The 2015 Agribusiness Crop Updates will be held from Tuesday 24 - Wednesday 25 February 2015 at Crown Perth. The two day event will showcase the latest research, technology, market development and management innovations to improve the productivity and profitability of the WA grains industry. See next months *NewsWire* for more information.

Funding Opportunities

Rural Research and Development for Profit

The Rural R&D for Profit \$100 million grants programme aims to realise productivity and profitability improvements for primary producers through:

- generating knowledge, technologies, products or processes that benefit primary producers
- strengthening pathways to extend the results of rural R&D, including understanding the barriers to adoption
- establishing and fostering industry and research collaborations that form the basis for ongoing innovation and growth of Australian agriculture

RDCs will be the principal grant recipients, however to be eligible for funding they must collaborate with one or more researchers, research agencies, funding bodies, businesses, producer groups or not-for-profit agencies. The partnership must then provide a cash or cash plus in-kind contribution at least equal to the requested Australian Government grant funding.

For more information click [here](#), or contact Barbara Jones, T: 02 6272 5603, E: RuralR&D@agriculture.gov.au. Application close Monday 15 December.

Calendar of Events

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

Grower Group Spotlight

Southern DIRT's Spring Field Day Success

Those attending the 2014 Southern DIRT Spring Field Day had the opportunity to hear from a wide range of presenters covering topics across cropping and livestock production issues. The Field Day, held on 24th September, trialed a new format with Kojonup NVT site visits held early in the day, and joining the rest of the group at the DIRT to \$ Cropping Challenge site, where the Field Day was officially opened. Interest in the Cropping Challenge is continues to grow, with teams growing canola varieties in 2014. The comparison between management strategies of RR and TT varieties provided for plenty of discussion.

The group then boarded buses and headed north into the Woodanilling Shire to visit trial sites looking at profitable legume phase options, and a messina site which provided a very visual comparison of the messina's ability to thrive on less than ideal conditions.

Back at the Wellards "Hyfield" property, presentations from Kelly Ryan (MyCrop), Jack McKie, CBH (Maximum Residue Limits), Andrew Ritchie, Icon Agriculture (Sheep are more profitable than crop), and Marcus and Shannon Sounness, MLA Challenge participants kept the conversation flowing and the discussion lively at times! Sessions focusing on working *on* the business, not just *in* the business are a key feature of the field day, and are appreciated by members and supporters.

For more information about Southern DIRT [click here](#), or contact Pip Crook, T: 9831 1074, E: eo@southerndirt.com.au.



SEPWA - Reversing the tree change

Esperance farmers would have thought their pioneering days of clearing the land were over. But they are currently faced with the prospect of having to remove more than 50,000 hectares of blue gum forestry. SEPWA will document farmers experiences and methods they have adopted to return their land to sustainable and productive agricultural land. The project "Blue Gum reality - ensuring sustainable conversion of forestry land to crop and pasture", is funded through the South Coast NRM.

To read the full media release [click here](#). For more information contact Alice Butler, T: 0404 277 337, E: alice@sepwa.org.au.



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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The Grower Group Alliance is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

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