



GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE
Together we grow

Supported by media partner
Farm WEEKLY

RECENT activities

DRY SEASON RESPONSE OUTREACH GRANTS

Grower Group Alliance (GGA) recently partnered with the WA government's Dry Season Task Force to administer a five-part plan to support mobilisation of on-ground efforts around community wellbeing. GGA assessed 26 applications and approved 21 grants from \$5000 – \$35,000 for GGA network members, and other agriculture groups/organisations to deliver dry season response initiatives in their area. See a full list of grant recipients at the GGA Dry Season Response Outreach project page at gga.org.au

RESEARCHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

GGA has launched a four-part professional development program for research and project officers that will build the technical capability of this cohort while cultivating a supportive professional community of practice within the GGA network. Nine activities will be delivered in 2024, the most recent being group learning workshops on scientific communications and report writing, soil science and a 'phone-a-friend' quarterly group call. A comprehensive online onboarding and basic training series for new hires is under construction and at later stages of the program private mentoring for existing research or project officers will be offered. Follow the program at the gga.org.au



NATIONAL INDUSTRY-LED CARBON FARMING OUTREACH PROGRAM

GGA is leading its first national project that will deliver a nationwide carbon farming outreach program, largely in broadacre and pastoral industries. Running over two years, the project unites 40 farming and land management groups from all States and the Northern Territory with a combined partners' membership of 20,000+ farming businesses. The project will see grower groups provide training on a local scale, partnering with farm advisory service providers to deliver trusted, reliable advice to an estimated 3,500+ farming enterprises. Participants will be armed with the capacity to reduce emissions, sequester carbon and consider carbon farming opportunities. The project is delivered with funding support from the Commonwealth of Australia through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Information at gga.org.au



TUNE INTO GRAINS CONVO: THE ESSENTIAL PODCAST FOR GRAINGROWERS

Hosted by DPIRD Research Scientists Cindy Webster and Janette Pratt, the GRAINS CONVO podcast brings you the latest knowledge and tools from DPIRD to elevate the grains industry. With a focus on crop protection, crop production, soils, and genetics in broadacre agriculture, this podcast keeps you informed on DPIRD's cutting-edge projects. Get the updates you need to make informed decisions throughout the season. Subscribe and listen to GRAINS CONVO on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE GGA BOARD

Three member-elected positions on the GGA Board are vacant and open for nominations ahead of the Annual General Meeting on September 20, 2024. Nicole Batten [Yuna Farm Improvement Group] and Debbie Gillam [Mingenew Irwin Group] have reached their maximum service term of four years so will step down, and Chris Wyhoon [WA Regenerative Livestock Producers] is eligible for re-nomination to serve another two years as a Board Director. All three Member Director positions are determined by vote at the AGM. GGA voting members eligible to nominate a delegate to become a Board Director are on the GGA website gga.org.au with nominations closing 22nd August.



EVERGREEN FARMING LEGACY FUND GRANTS OPEN

After 23 years of successful operation, the Evergreen Farming grower group has wound-up with reserves of about \$150,000. These unused funds will be transferred to GGA to act as custodians for grants up to \$25,000 for voting GGA member grower groups to use in ways aligned to Evergreen Farming's work around perennial pasture systems. A framework on pre-agreed uses and governance for grants has been established between Evergreen Farming and GGA and includes:

1. Research & Development projects on perennial pasture systems*
2. Extension & Adoption initiatives on perennial pasture systems*
3. Capacity building, including student bursaries, on perennial pasture systems*

[*includes fodder shrubs].
Non-GGA members can collaborate with an eligible GGA group.
Applications close August 30, via the GGA webpage gga.org.au



GGA CHAIRS SUMMIT AIMS TO BUILD LEADERSHIP LINKS

GGA is hosting its 3rd annual Chairs Summit on September 19th and 20th at the Aloft Hotel Rivervale. Open to Chairs and Vice Chairs of voting GGA member groups, the hospitality event aims to build stronger connections, and enable information exchange between the leadership of the 49 voting groups of the GGA, provide insights on GGA operational activities and exclusive access to the GGA leadership team. The program includes a networking dinner, and complimentary overnight accommodation on Thursday, followed by exclusive GGA operational updates Friday morning before the AGM. Further details and registrations at gga.org.au

ROUND 3 FARMANCO 'IN-KIND' SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

GGA network members are invited to apply for a portion of \$17,500 in-kind sponsorship available in Round 3 (the final round) of the GGA and Farmanco 'in-kind' sponsorship program. The initiative forms part of a 3-year GGA partnership with Farmanco that sees in-kind services made available by GGA to members to activate initiatives for groups that require external skills and resources to mobilise. 13 groups have been supported so far in the program with \$35,000 in-kind services provided. Details of past initiatives, and applications can be made at the GGA 'Farmanco 'in-kind' program' page, by 30 September 2024.



2025 GROWING LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP OPEN

Applications are open for the 2025 Growing Leaders Scholarship. Sponsored by the CBH Group, this scholarship offers leaders in the grains sector a place in the transformational 10-month Signature Leaders Program with Leadership WA, valued at \$16,940 each. The scholarship aims to build a pool of growers ready to take on leadership positions in the grain industry, within Grower Groups, and even at CBH. 14 previous scholars have completed the program. Apply by September 9 at the GGA website gga.org.au



R&D PROJECT NEWS

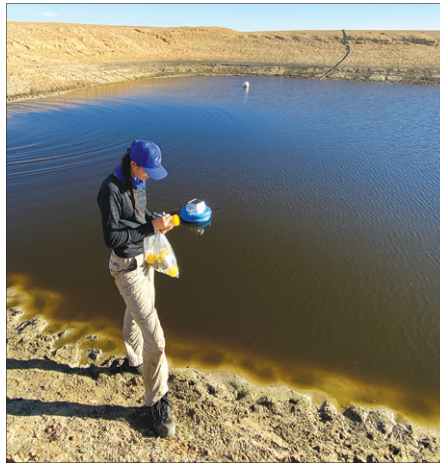
DROUGHT HUB PROJECTS SET TO TRANSFORM AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Six 18-month transformational agricultural projects have commenced in Western Australia after grants worth \$1 million were awarded by the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.

The Hub's Transformational Program seeks to investigate new and emerging systems or significant modifications of current systems that lead to transformational change of agricultural practices to improve drought and climate resilience in WA.

The six new projects are investigating a diverse range of topics, including:

- Alternative land use in agricultural systems for green energy projects,
- Understanding the methane emissions profile of farm dams,
- Natural capital as an asset class,
- Water harvesting in rain-fed cropping systems,
- Circular economy of agricultural waste streams,
- Capacity of First Nations knowledge to build climate resilience in contemporary agricultural systems.



> Centre for Water and Spatial Science graduate, Emily Kelly, collecting samples for The University of Western Australia's project on monitoring methane emissions from WA farm dams.

GRDC PODCAST WITH A LEGUME LEADER

The GRDC has launched a series of podcasts interviewing 'Legume Leaders' with 220 years combined producer experience with grain legumes in farming systems. Linked to the GRDC investment project, Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA, the growers spread across the State and are sharing their local knowledge and insights on benefits of and the challenges associated with including grain legumes in their farming system. Browse the entire 'Legumes Leaders' gallery in the WA Grain Legumes project at gga.org.au



RISKWISE ROADSHOW AND CONFERENCE: ADVANCING DECISION-MAKING IN AUSTRALIAN GRAIN PRODUCTION

The national RiskWiSe team travelled to Dalwallinu, in late June. This event brought together grower groups, researchers and GRDC staff from across Australia to discuss the goals of the new GRDC Risk Management initiative. The trip focused on understanding how risky decisions are made, and was demonstrated in paddock with the Leibe Group's canola time of sowing trial. The trials reflected the challenge growers had this year deciding how much of their canola program to sow into marginal soil moisture and highlighted the importance of slower thinking processes when making decisions under uncertain conditions.

Find out more and watch the project video at gga.org.au



> The national RiskWiSe project team

HUB 'DRY SEASON' RESOURCES HELP WA FARMERS PREPARE FOR DRY TIMES

Over the past few months, the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) has produced a suite of podcasts and videos to help WA farmers adapt to a drying, warming climate. In these discussions, farmers share valuable insights into the proactive measures they implement to increase their farming system's resilience to a drying climate. Consultants and researchers offer expert advice to assist farmers in preparing for the challenges posed by future dry seasons. Topics covered range from early planning to tactical decision-making as the season changes throughout the year, and setting up for the following season. The SW WA Hub's Dry Season podcast and videos can be accessed via the 'Resources' tab on the Hub website hub.gga.org.au



ON-DEMAND FROST PLANNING AND RESPONSE WORKSHOP SERIES AVAILABLE

Pre-seeding frost planning workshop series are available to run in regional locations on demand. Farmers attending can develop a personal frost management plan with guidance from experts in the room and access the latest in frost strategy. Lodge an EOI to have a frost workshop near you here:



SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY ENHANCES GRAZING MANAGEMENT IN WA AND THE NT



A cross-Hub project has refined the Cibo Labs Pty Ltd satellite-based biomass monitoring technology to help pastoralists manage grazing and stocking rates in Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

In the initial phase of the project, 17 pastoralists from ten stations were trained to identify pasture species and other key indicators of livestock nutrition and rangeland ecology specific to their stations.

The Northern Hub then funded an extension of the project to include five more stations in the Pilbara and Kimberley regions, including Koordarrrie station. This project was undertaken by SW WA Hub Node Lead, Rangelands NRM, with support from the Northern and South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs, through funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

WELCOME TO GGA NEW MEMBERS

Browse all our members by heading to the 'Grower Groups' tab at gga.org.au

WELCOME to four new GGA network member groups. Three new groups were accepted by the GGA board as Associate [non-voting] members, including the Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc, Leschenault Biosecurity Group, and South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc. The Great Southern Wine Producers Association with about 50 members also joined, qualifying as a voting grower group member. The groups bring more agriculture knowledge and producer diversity into the network.

GGA NETWORK

GROWER GROUP MEMBERS

- Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE)
- ASHEEP & BEEF
- Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia Inc (COBWA)
- Compass Agricultural Alliance
- Corrigin Farm Improvement Group
- Esperance Zone Innovation Group (EZI)
- Facey Group
- Far Eastern Agricultural Research Group (FEAR)
- Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
- Future Food Producers Group
- Gascoyne Catchments Group
- Gillamii Centre
- Great Southern Wine Producers Association
- Hills Orchard Improvement Group
- Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association
- LIEBE Group
- Lower South West Grower Group
- Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)
- Mingenew Irwin Group
- Moora Milling Pasture Improvement Group
- Morawa Farm Improvement Group
- Mortlock Ag Focus Group
- Mullewa Dryland Farmers Initiative
- Noongar Land Enterprise Group
- North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources
- Northern Agri Group
- Nyabing Farm Improvement Group
- O'Connor Research Group
- Oil Mallee Association of Australia
- Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)
- Regen WA
- Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)
- South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)
- Southern Dirt Incorporated
- Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
- Stirlings to Coast Farmers
- Sweeter Banana Co-operative
- Three Springs Farm Innovation Network (3FIN)
- Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
- Turf Growers Association of Western Australia
- WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd
- WA No-Tillage Farmers Assoc (WANTFA)
- WA Regenerative Livestock Producers
- West Midlands Group
- Western Australian Lot Feeders Association
- Western Beef Assoc Inc
- Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)
- Women in Farming Inc
- Yuna Farm Improvement Group

ASSOCIATE GROWER GROUP MEMBERS

- Broomehill Cropping Group
- Bruce Rock Land Conservation District Committee
- Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee
- Holt Rock Group
- Lakes Grower Group
- Lakes Information & Farming Technology (LIFT)
- Living Farm Grower Group
- Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
- Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)
- Owingup Kent Grower Group
- Wilson Inlet Grower Group (WIGG)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- AgZero 2030
- Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC WA)
- Bee Industry Council WA (BICWA)
- Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc
- Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
- Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group
- Gascoyne Food Council Inc
- Gate 2 Plate Inc.
- Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association
- Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
- Julianne Hill
- Leschenault Biosecurity Group
- Northern Biosecurity Group
- Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc
- Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
- Rural Edge
- South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc
- South West NRM
- Southern Biosecurity Group
- Southern Forests Community Landcare
- Southern Forests Food Council
- Torbay Catchment Group
- TrialCo Pty Ltd
- vegetablesWA
- WA Citrus
- WA Future Food Network
- Wagin Woodanilling Landcare Zone
- Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)
- Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC)
- Wines of WA

To connect with your local grower group visit gga.org.au