TITLE: Two hundred and Fifty Kilometre Spring Field Day

The Yuna Farm Improvement Group recently held a Spring Field Day covering a distance of 250 km to the northern tip of the Western Australian wheat belt. A retired school bus, purchased by the group, served as transportation for the fifty growers. The day covered such a diverse area, participants viewed crops which were flowering to those which were almost ready for harvest, such is the expanse of the group’s membership.

John Warr, Yuna Farm Improvement Group Chairperson said, “the group decided that they had enough of visiting trial sites and standing in the one spot listening to experts talk. Travelling the north east part of the wheat belt gave the group members an insight into results that are achievable on poor sand plain soils evident throughout the district. At one property they visited a poor performing paddock which was transformed from the application of gypsum and lime.”

The National Variety Testing Trials in the low rainfall area was a component of the trip. “Despite the site suffering from trifluralin damage, the group learnt a valuable lesson - although the national trial is run on a national protocol it is essential to take the local environment into consideration to manage the trial effectively” John Warr said. The group also took the opportunity to visit barley variety trials, managed by the Department of Agriculture as well as the CSBP trial comparing banded urea with band Flexi N and Flexi N incorporated before sowing.

Comparisons between two different feed supplements on feedlot sheep was examined during a visit to Batten’s sheep feedlot. “How to best feedlot sheep and options for finishing lambs are topics of particular interest to members of the Yuna Farm Improvement Group” commented John Warr.

The focus for the day was to look at what other farmers in the region are doing and how they overcome their respective challenges. The field day’s success was measured by it’s diversity, opportunity for interaction between group members and ability to inform group members of the opportunities to improve their own level of production.

For further information on the Yuna Farm Improvement Group, visit the Local Farmer Group Network website www.lfgn.org.au/groups/yuna

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