Mark your calendar!

Next General Meeting

of members of the Northern Agri Group

is scheduled for
Friday 18 March 2005 at Binnu Hall
Commencing at 4-00pm.

One important agenda item is to do with tabling of the 'proposed'
Constitution of NAG to enable incorporation of our group.

Copy of the constitution document is available on the afternoon or beforehand by
Contacting either NAG Secretary Michelle Allen or NAG Chairman Gordon Wilson.

Look forward to seeing as many members there as possible!

BRI Course
The Bread Research Institute recently
Held a one day course for interested
People at the Ogilvie Hall. 13 people
Attended & gained a better understand-
ing why wheat quality is important to
Each step of the food chain from growers
To millers to food processors.

Sincere thanks to Renaye Horne,
Development Officer with the Dept
Of Agriculture for presenting this
Opportunity to NAG and this region
And for her work enabling WA to
Secure 6 of the 15 workshops that
Were held nationally!

NAG ‘Snapshot’ Survey
Members will have recently received a survey
we are encouraging you to complete & return.
Much time has been spent by committee man
Rohan Ford in developing this survey format
as one step to ensuring we (as NAG
Committee) are focusing on your needs and
better able to organize Field Days, group
sessions & activities. We believe the results
of this first survey will give an overall picture
of farming in this area in 2005 and be valuable
to look back on in years to come.

All responses to the survey will be collected
by the Secretary and treated confidentially
with individual responses being destroyed
once collated.

As detailed on the survey, you can return the
survey which ever way suits you best - by
mail, by fax or by dropping into a sealed box
located at the Binnu Store.
The local impact of emerging players in the world grain game
Ingrid Richardson, Food & Agribusiness Research, Rabobank

The global grain trading environment is usually highly competitive and 2005/06 is looking to be no exception. Large stocks of cereal grain are currently held in the EU, while the US has large corn and soybean crops in storage after an excellent season and above average yields last year. Large stocks are having a negative influence global grain prices, and the EU’s efforts to encourage (subsidise) exports through restitution payments to the tune of around 10 euros/tonne are not helping the price situation. In addition, longer term changes (combined with seasonal influences) in the global grain market have led to the emergence of “non-traditional” exporters of both grains and oilseeds including Brazil, Argentina, Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Soybean production expansion in Brazil and Argentina will have global ramifications, even for Australia, a non-player in the global soybean market. Over the past couple of years the ‘push’ and ‘pull’ of the emerging soybean producers (Brazil and Argentina) and consumers (China) are having profound effects on prices for oilseeds, oil meals, fertiliser, agricultural chemicals and freight in the rest of the world. Increased volumes of soybeans are driving down world oilseed and feed grain prices while pushing up the price of ocean freight and, in turn, fertiliser. The repercussions of this for Australia are three-fold: increased competition for feed grain exports and negative price pressures on export grain; negative price pressures on canola; and increased freight rates for grain exports and fertiliser imports. Nevertheless, there are opportunities for Australia to exploit a relative freight advantage over North American producers into the growth markets of South East Asia with canola and cereal grain exports targeted at higher-value markets.
NAG Shirts, Caps and Hats

The Northern Agri Group now has shirts, caps and bucket hats available for purchase. Thanks to our two Gold sponsors, Great Northern Rural Services and Rabobank Australia Ltd, for their assistance and especially to Gordon Wilson for his work in ensuring these garments were available for our Field Day.

NAG Members are entitled to one free shirt per membership.

- Polo Shirt (with armbands) $38-50
- Polo Shirt (w/out armbands) $35-20
- Bucket Hats $17-50
- Caps (with suede brim) $16-50
- Caps $16-50

Purchase of garments can be arranged with the Secretary Michelle Allen Tel 99203047
Fax 99203044 Email allenleander@bigpond.com

Promoting GOLD Sponsors of the Northern Agri Group

GREAT NORTHERN RURAL SERVICES

Rabobank
Greater Perspective