NORTHERN AGRI GROUP

Current projects:

The Northern Agri Group has two funded projects progressing at present – both focused on grazing and pasture.

The MLA funded project “Rhagodia as a fodder shrub in the Northern Wheatbelt” has seen the planting of about 5000 Rhagodia seedlings on 5 sites from East Binnu to Northampton, with plans to monitor the growth and feed value of the native shrub.

Funded by the NLP through NACC the “Reducing Erosion under High Stocking Rate Grazing Systems” Project is focusing on the different strategies used in 8 different grazing systems on 8 local farms to minimise erosion and maintain production. The project is providing the farmers with grazing training, and is set to run over three years. Seasonal conditions have affected the project somewhat, but so far all is progressing well.

On Friday 25th August an informative field day was held to look at a couple of the Rhagodia sites and extend the knowledge of the participants in the High Stocking Rate project. The day began at Don Nairn’s farm in East Binnu and attracted 36 farmers and other local representatives. Dr Dean Revell, from the CSIRO Enrich program delivered an excellent presentation on what influences livestock to eat certain food from birth through their producing life. His particular interest is encouraging stock to selectively graze weeds from crops, something that Don has been able to demonstrate on-farm. The group did a walk on Don’s property and the nearby Wilson farm looking at the different fodder bushes and the stages, timing and methods of planting.

The “High Stocking Rate Grazing Systems” Project also conducted a 5-day study tour into the Murchison on Monday 28th August to look at different grazing systems, pastoral alliances and irrigated pastures. The 6 Participant tour look in projects and sites from Carnarvon to Coral Bay in what was an excellent trip. It is hoped to revisit the sites early in 2007 in a similar study tour.

If you would like more information on either of the above projects please contact Fleur Porter the Northern Agri Group Project Officer on ports@midwest.com.au