GROUP PROFILE: Kellerberrin Demonstration Group

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Group Aim:
To look at crop nutrition and disease in the Kellerberrin area.

How was the group formed?
The Kellerberrin Demonstration Group was formed in 2000 as a collaboration between Farm Focus consultants and some of their clients in the Kellerberrin area.

What is the main focus of the group?
To use on farm research to trial different agronomic (mainly nutrition and disease) practices that are specific to the Kellerberrin area.

Number of members?
There are nine grower members in collaboration with Farm Focus consultants, DAFWA and CSIRO.

Membership fees?
The group does not have an open public membership, although information is free to all who request it.

What makes the group tick?
A common goal to find specific answers to problems directly relevant to the Central Wheat belt using on farm testing. The mutual benefit gained by the grower members and the industry professionals involved ensures that good research continues to be produced.

What trials has the group conducted in the past couple of years?
The group has conducted trials looking both in furrow and foliar fungicide application on wheat and barley, nutrition trials focusing on potassium, nitrogen and trace element responses and recently the effect of brown manuring on wheat crops.

How do you resource the group?
In the early stages of the group’s development, the research was funded by growers, Farm Focus consultants with support from DAFWA. In 2005 and again in 2006 the group received Agribusiness Trial Network funding from GRDC. Through the years the group has also received support from industry such as DKT Landmark and others in the form of donations of time, networking opportunities and products from the industry.

How has the group shared research?
The group’s research has been presented at the Agribusiness Crop Updates and published in The Countryman.