LFGN Newswire provides information about a range of local group activities, training, field days and funding opportunities for the benefit of local farmer groups. You are welcome to forward this Newswire to others who may be interested and encourage them to join the email list by emailing admin@lfgn.org.au. Visit www.lfgn.org.au for previous editions of Newswire.

REGIONAL LEADERS BREAKFAST MEETINGS SUMMARY
LFGN held regional breakfast meetings at Merredin, Katanning, Geraldton and Northam in July as part of a strategy to strengthen linkages between groups at a regional level. All meetings were kept relatively informal to maximise interactions between growers and regional government organisations. Twenty two farmers representing 15 grower groups attended the meetings which were held over breakfast with guests from Department of Agriculture and Food, Regional Development Commissions and Regional Catchment Councils. A member of GRDC western panel attended the Northam and Katanning meetings. It was the first time for many group representatives to have met each other and to have heard from the Regional Government Organisations. Groups will be encouraged to participate in a phone hookup before the next series of regional group leaders meeting planned for October/November. For Executive Report.

56TH AUSTRALIAN CEREAL CHEMISTRY CONFERENCE – 10 TO THE 14 SEPTEMBER
The focus will be on wheat at the upcoming conference in Fremantle, providing an insight into leading world wheat research. The conference will also focus on other cereals, plus breeding, the farm to market supply chain, processing, health, new research and new technology.

The Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) will sponsor 12 growers to attend free on Wednesday, September 13, a special day earmarked for growers. Growers registering their interest in the day with conference chair Vicky Solah on 9266 2771 or via email at v.solah@curtin.edu.au will have an opportunity to be awarded the free day registration.

The sponsored grower registrations include lunch and an opportunity to meet speakers at the conference or during a visit to the WA State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre at Murdoch University in the afternoon. For more information go to http://www.raci.org.au/division/cereal/conferences.html
This Grains Flash was provided by Brendon Cant & Associates.

NINGHAN FARM FOCUS GROUP PROFILE
The Ninghan Farm Focus Group have established a group that is dynamic. Kim Maddock the original Chairman of the group has moved aside to let the younger generation take over and Luke Sprigg was appointed Chairman in 2006. Read more about the group go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1529/GroupProfileNinghan06.pdf

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

CONTROLLED TRAFFIC FARMING CONFERENCE (CTF) Sponsorship Application – Due Friday 18 August
Partners in Grain is offering to sponsor four growers to the 2006 CTF Conference in Ballarat, Victoria. The conference aims to highlight the rapidly developing farming system of South Australia, including controlled traffic/raised beds, minimum tillage, stubble retention and inter row operations.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain both knowledge and practical experience if you have adopted or are planning to adopt Controlled Traffic Farming practices. Sponsorship is to the
value of $500 per person which amounts to approximately half the overall cost of attending. For more information http://www.lfgn.org.au/newswire/newswire_links?f=7406

COMMUNITY WATER GRANTS Due Friday, 25 August 2006
Community groups, local governments, schools and sporting clubs are all eligible to apply for Community Water Grants in order to implement simple, practical ideas that make a real difference to their community's water resource.

The Community Water Grants project has already provided $61 million worth of funds to 1750 projects in the first round. The second round is now available with the offer of up to $50,000 per grant. Projects related to water saving and efficiency; water recycling and water treatment and improving surface and groundwater health are eligible. For more information go to http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/about.html

This grant is designed to encourage people engaged in farming, food, aquaculture and forest industries to contribute to sustainable production by developing and/or promoting the adoption of innovative practices, production techniques, technologies and products. Business start-up or commercialisation activities are not eligible for funding under this scheme.

Online guidelines and application forms are available from the website www.landcare.gov.au/nlpinnovations or email nlpinnovations@daff.gov.au
Potential applicants are strongly advised to discuss their proposal with their State Landcare Coordinator Ian Duncan prior to submission. Ian can be contacted on 94862114 or 0428330119 or Ian Duncan@waff.org.au

GRDC INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS Due Friday 29 September 2006
The GRDC invites and assesses Travel Award applications twice a year. The Local Farmer Group Network has been successful in obtaining funding for groups in this way and encourages others to apply for their travel idea using this program.

This award is specifically offered to Australian grain growers, either individuals or groups. It provides an opportunity to develop new skills, build relationships and acquire new information that will contribute to building a sustainable and profitable grains industry.

For a copy of the application form visit the GRDC website at http://www.grdc.com.au/researchers/docs/travelapp.doc

GRDC CONFERENCE SPONSORSHIP AWARD Due Friday 29 September 2006
The GRDC provides sponsorship assistance to groups or organizations wishing to conduct a conference, workshop, seminar or field day that directly benefits the Australian grains industry.

If your group is interested in accessing GRDC funds to invite a guest speaker to your field day or organising members of the group to attend a conference, this award is worthwhile applying for. The application process and reporting process are outlined on the GRDC website. For more information http://www.grdc.com.au/researchers/docs/confinstruct.doc

RURAL WOMEN’S AWARD, RIRDC 2007 – Due Sunday 15 October 2006
Bev Logue from Binnu, north of Geraldton is Western Australia’s 2006 Rural Women of the Year and runner-up for Australian Rural Woman of the Year. Bev has a passion for sustainable farming practices, together with a strong interest in the licensed production of biodiesel. Do you know a woman with a passion for agriculture? If so nominate them for this award or alternatively nominate yourself. The benefits include a $10,000 bursary for each state winner as well as the opportunity to attend the Australian Institute Company Directors course.
The award is open to all women in agriculture and nominations opened on the 1 August 2006. An application form can be downloaded from

YOU DON’T HAVE TO WRITE YOUR GROUP’S GRANT APPLICATION!
An overwhelming majority of group members don’t have the time or the experience to write grant applications to access funds for their group. In this case, ask a professional to write the application for you. Our Community provides, information on who you can hire for this purpose, go to http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/funding/funding_article.jsp?articleId=552#wa

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

ROW SUPPORT SCHOOL 25 August
The Duli Group is host a workshop by HF De Wet on 25 Aug at Cadoux Hall starting at 8.15am. RSVP 18th Aug. They will cover many topics of interest to grain and pasture producers. It can be best described as a “tailored diagnostics” day. Contact Mike Eyres, Australian Soil Planners on 0428 988090 or Mike Kalajzic on 0428 731065, or visit the Duli Group website for details.

PLANT DISEASE IDENTIFICATION COURSE – 15-17 August
This is a three day workshop designed to teach participants to: recognize major plant disease symptoms; understand when and how diseases occur; understand control measures; and to, differentiate between disease, herbicide and other factors causing leaf damage.

The course cost is $680 for three days, with a 50% Farmbis reimbursement available for eligible participants. For more information contact Brigette Lacey on 9690 1550 or 9690 2128 or BLacey@agric.wa.gov.au

WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUSTAINABLE FARM FUTURES – 22 August
This workshop presents an opportunity to discuss sustainable farming in Western Australia and the Department of Agriculture and Foods “Farming for the Future” project. For more information go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=7405 or contact Rebecca Ashley Jones, RAshley@agric.wa.gov.au

WHOLE FARM APPROACH WORKSHOPS - “How to manage now for a changing world?”
WA Farmers together with industry partners are hosting workshops to discuss and provide information on:
Market drivers/signals update – what’s happening now and how it relates to your farm
What’s in it for you
Can you get recognition for what you are already doing?
Business Decisions – Trade Offs for Short Term Benefits
How sustainable can be profitable

The FREE EMS 2006 Workshops will be held 9:30am to 3:00pm in the following areas:

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Venue</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 30 Aug</td>
<td>Lake Grace</td>
<td>Sportsman Club</td>
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<td>Thurs 31 Aug</td>
<td>Gnowangerup</td>
<td>Lesser Hall</td>
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<td>Fri 1 Sept</td>
<td>Mount Barker</td>
<td>Frost Pavilion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 13 Sept</td>
<td>Ravensthorpe</td>
<td>Red Room</td>
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<td>Thurs 14 Sept</td>
<td>Esperance</td>
<td>St John Ambulance Sub Station</td>
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For more information and to RSVP please contact Sarah Pearce, WA State EMS Pathways Project Officer, c/-The Western Australian Farmers Federation. Ph (08) 9486 2100 or sarahpearce@wafarmers.org.au

WHAT WILL GM CROPS OFFER YOU?
Educational seminars are being held at various locations across Western Australia’s agricultural region for the purpose of discussing concerns on the science and management of GM crops.
Scientists, farmers and marketers who have “real-life” GM crop experience will be speaking at events in:

- **Mingenew Recreational Centre, Mingenew**  Monday 4 September, 1.00 pm
- **Octagon Theatre, University of Western Australia**  Tuesday 5 September, 1.00 pm
- **Wongan Hills Hotel, Wongan Hills**  Wednesday 6 September, 1.00 pm
- **Bruce Rock Town Hall, Bruce Rock**  Thursday 7 September, 1.00 pm
- **Katanning Country Club, Katanning**  Friday 8th September, 1.00 pm

The cost is $10 per person at country venues and $5 per person in Perth. Student entry is free.

For the event [brochure](mailto:admin@lfgn.org.au) or contact Lisa Mayer [admin@lfgn.org.au](mailto:admin@lfgn.org.au)

**MANAGING FARM SAFETY**

The second round of MFS workshops will be held in August and September. Locations in the Hyden and surrounding districts are:

- **Monday 21st August**  Ardath Hotel
- **Tuesday 22nd August**  Hyden Telecentre
- **Wednesday 23rd August**  Kulin Resource Centre
- **Thursday 24th August**  Pingrup Golf Club
- **Friday 25th August**  Lake Grace Telecentre

Our course trainer, Ben Olsen, will later be targeting the following areas:

- **August 28th to 1st September** – Quairading, Narambeen, Corrigin, Pingelly, Williams
- **September 11th to 15th** – Boxwood Hills, Cranbrook, Tambellup, Broomehill, Nyabing
- **September 25th to 29th** – Kalannie, Beacon, Bonnie Rock, Muckinbudin, Burracoppin

8.30am Registration for 9.00am start. (The course finishes around 4.30pm)

**Course Price $84** ($240 up front but receive $156 rebate)
**Additional Person** $42 ($120 up front but receive $78 rebate)
**Course plus Follow-up** $284 ($640 up front but receive $356 rebate) (Optional)

Morning Tea and Lunch included in price.

A further 5% discount for early registration


**GROUP TOURS & ACTIVITIES**

**Jerdacuttup Topcrop Group and the RAIN Group** will send 21 of their members on a tour to South Australia leaving 20 August and returning on the 29 August. The Ravensthorpe and District Study Tour to SA is an initiative made possible by the GRDC Industry Development Award. The tour will incorporate information on inter-row seeding, controlled traffic systems, rust with barley, precision agriculture, and no till. The group also plan to use this opportunity to meet with the York Peninsula Alkaline Soils Group and the Kangaroo Island Farmer Group as well as incorporating a visit to the Hart Field Day Site. For more information contact Julieanne Hill on (08) 9838 1997 or [jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:jrhill@agric.wa.gov.au)

**UWA Opens its Doors to Grower Groups**

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences is happy to hear from any grower groups who are interested in seeing what research is happen here at UWA. The School of Plant Biology, School of Earth & Geographical Sciences, School of Animal Biology, WAHRI and CLIMA all have topics and presenters who are willing to talk to grower groups while they are visiting Perth. Please contact myself or Lisa to make arrangement for your groups visit.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Which groups are holding Spring Field Days? Check through the GGA Calendar of Events which is posted on www.lfgn.org.au. If your group is not having a field day this year, think about organizing a bus to visit a neighbouring group’s field day. For the calendar go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/calendar

Biodiesel Workshop at UWA is on again on Sunday 27 August 2006 9am – 5pm. This is an excellent course for those who want to get up to speed with what it takes to make biodiesel. Contact: Jonathon Thwaites, University of Western Australia, 6488 7932 or 0419 924 355 jthwaites@admin.uwa.edu.au If you wish to book in please email me with your postal address and the course you want to attend and I will send information to you. Or visit: http://www.sustainability.fm.uwa.edu.au Fee: $100 + $10 GST

Australian Agronomy Society Conference, Perth - 10 – 14 September
The National Australian Society of Agronomy conference will be held in Perth, WA from the 10th to the 14th September, 2006. Put this date in your diary, further updates to follow. Or visit the conference website http://www.agronomy.org.au/events/ Conference tours will include the WANTFA field day on 14th September at Meckering. Conference organisers are interested in hearing from group representatives interested in attending the conference.

National Rural Youth Convention 2006 27 August – 2 September
The WA Federation of Rural Youth (WAFRY) is a not-for-profit group run by young people for young people. WAFRY is hosting the 2006 National Rural Youth Convention with the aim of promoting the interchange of ideas between country and urban young Australians, promoting the interests of country communities and to provide training in the skills required for community and business leadership.

As a convention participant you will visit some of Western Australia’s most innovative agricultural and rural development sites! The National Rural Youth Convention is an opportunity to showcase the 'best in the West' in terms of successful agricultural enterprises as well as innovative practices or alternative rural industries.

The Convention delegates will be accommodated in Northam and will take part in a number of farm and related industry tours around the Wheatbelt region with the aim of delegates, from all states and territories, sharing their own experiences and knowledge while also expanding their business networks. More information www.ruralyouthwa.org.au

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