NEWswire
LOCAL FARMER GROUP NETWORK

July 2006 9th Edition
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 BREAKFAST MEETINGS
July is the month for the Regional Breakfast meeting which are on the following dates:
12th July in Merredin
13th July in Katanning
19th July in Geraldton
20th July in Northam

Participants will include regional government authorities ie; Catchment Councils, Regional Development Commissions and Department of Agriculture and Food, along with LFGN and GGA leaders.

For more information contact Paul Carmody, lfgn@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

LFGN GROUP LEADERS RETURN FROM BIRCHIP EXPO IN VICTORIA
Nine Local Farmer Group Network members, together with three Grower Group Alliance representatives have just arrived back in WA after a five day trip to Victoria. It was the first tour of its kind where members representing 10 different groups travelled together to visit groups in northern Victoria and attend the Birchip Cropping Group Expo. GRDC funded the tour which was coordinated by the Local Farmer Group Network. A list of tour participants can be found on our website. Go to www.lfgn.org.au for the tour participants contact details, or contact Lisa Mayer admin@lfgn.org.au

NATIONAL RURAL YOUTH CONVENTION 2006 – 27th August – 2nd 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](http://www.ruralyouthwa.org.au)

**LOOKING FOR INVERTERS**
DAFWA researcher Dr Sally Peltzer is looking for grower groups to collaborate in a project proposal to GRDC to investigate how soil inversion could help control wild radish. In an unusual approach the Network is asking for farmer groups to express their interest in collaborating in such a proposal before funds have been secured. To find out more about the proposal visit the [LFGN website](http://www.lfgn.org.au) or [http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=7002](http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=7002)

**CRASH GRAZE SALTBUSH IF FEED IS NEEDED NOW**
Dr Barrett-Lennard from the CRC for Plant based Management of Dryland Salinity and Dr Norman from the Department of Food and Agriculture are urging farmers to open the gates to allow stock to graze on saltbush.
Using saltbush as an emergency ration for sheep, while waiting for rain is recommended “because of its higher moister content, pastures on saltland have continued to grow even though conditions have been too dry for annual pasture,” Dr Barrett-Lennard said. For more information on this emergency stockfeed strategy go to [http://www.crcsalinity.com/news/media.php?id=116](http://www.crcsalinity.com/news/media.php?id=116)

**YUNA ASSESSED THEIR OPTIONS**
Yuna Farm Improvement Group held a strategic drought meeting to discuss options for the late start to the season. The late June meeting was well attended with over 90 people present. Guest speakers included Cameron Weeks, PlanFarm, David Morel a farm consultant from Perth and speakers from both the Grain Pool and AWB. They discussed what it was going to cost to put a crop in, what were the cut off dates and how to make the most of the year. Other speakers included Grant Thompson, Landmark and David Stephens from the Department of Agriculture and Food.

**YORK DROUGHT BREAKERS MET WITH SUCCESS**
Over 80 growers attended the York Community Drought Breakers Breakfast on 21st June. A morning mixed with fun and business for farmers looking for a way forward in dry times, one of the driest on record for York. Wally Forman from ABC provided some light hearted entertainment at the breakfast. Local Agricultural Consultant, Bill Roy, presented some **cold hard figures** about break-evens and yield potential for the district. Bill has agreed to share this information with the Network even if it is a little dated. Go to [http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/2731/Weighing_up_the_prospects.pdf](http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/2731/Weighing_up_the_prospects.pdf) The Yuna Farm Improvement Group held a similar day on the same week.

**JUNE SEASONAL REPORT**

BIOENERGY / BIODIESEL ESTABLISH A FARMER NETWORK
Interested in sharing your experiences or ideas on either biodiesel or bioenergy? Bringing like minded people together to participate in bioenergy workshops and presenting the best options for farmers and groups, is of benefit to the network. Let us know whether your group are interested in biofuel or bioenergy. For more information on organising a workshop for your group contact Paul Carmody lfgn@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

NEBRASKA STUDENT INTERESTED IN DOWN UNDER HARVEST EXPERIENCE
Ryan Narjes, 21 y.o. student main interest is in wheat production but also enjoys the business side at the grain elevators. The internship he is seeking must be a minimum of 10 weeks in length. If he would like to experience more than just operate machinery/equipment. He would like to be in a position that allows him to make a few minor decisions or to be able to co-manage a harvest crew. For more information you can email him at pumpnlead@hotmail.com or phone Nebraska (308) 249-0969. He will be available from September and open to other work experience options.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

GRDC INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AWARDS  Due Friday 29th 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

VOLUNTEER SMALL EQUIPMENT GRANTS Due Friday, 21st July
Grants up to $3,000 are available for community organisations to help them purchase small equipment items that make the work of their volunteers safer and/or more enjoyable. These grants are available through the Department of Family, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs. If your group would like a piece of equipment that you think will assist the members and improve the performance of the group, consider
applying for this grant. For more information go to

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS Due Friday, 21st July 2006
The Department of Community Development and Lotterywest are promoting the WA Community Service Awards. These Awards are designed to recognise the efforts of people and organisations whose work makes a positive difference to the lives of Western Australians.

Nominate a person, programme or service you group for one of the nine different categories. A $5000.00 grant is available for each category.

Go to: www.community.wa.gov.au/csia

COMMUNITY WATER GRANTS Due Friday, 25th 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

Workshops are also being held to assist those groups interested with information on submitting the application. Workshop locations include Albany, Geraldton, Esperance, Moora, Newman, Kulin, Gingin and Perth, to name a few. To find the workshop near you go to http://www.communitywatergrants.gov.au/grants/round2/info-sessions.html

Or contact your Regional NRM Facilitator.
Lisa Grosskopf, Avon Catchment Council, lgrosskopf@agric.wa.gov.au
Duncan Peter, Northern Agricultural Catchment Council, naccfsi@westnet.com.au
Neil Blake, South Coast Regional Initiative Planning Team, neil@script.asn.au
Caroline Hatherly, South West Catchment Council, chatherly@agric.wa.gov.au
John Goldsmith, Swan Catchment Council, john.goldsmith@environment.wa.gov.au
Rod Williams, Rangelands NRM Coordinating Group, rwilliams@agric.wa.gov.au

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

AUSTRALIAN RURAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION Due Monday, 31st July
The Australian Rural Leadership Programme’s (ARLP) objective is “to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of rural Australia – its industries, communities and people – through investment in leadership development”.

Applications are invited from future leaders who are interested in being challenged to build on their skills, knowledge and networks which are critical to effective leadership. Participants will be exposed to real issues important to rural Australia through interaction with key people in industry, government and community both in Australia and overseas.

The course is demanding; some 60 days conducted over an 18 month period and involves a combination of workshops, discussions and outdoor education, both interstate and overseas.

For more information go to http://www.rural-leaders.com.au/aboutus.html

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUBSOILS – AUGUST 2006
Identify subsoil constraints within your district and develop strategies for your group to minimise the long term impact on your local farming system.
The Subsoils Constraints Team (SSC) will be running half and full day workshops through August for a limited number of groups. Team members include Bob Gilkes, Chris Gazey, Jim Dixon, Tania Liaghati, Dan Evans and Stephen Davies, who will share the delivery of these workshops through August. Up to eight workshop times available. Please email Lisa Mayer, admin@lfgn.org.au with an expression of interest before 30th July, 2006. For more information http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=5913

PLANT ID COURSE @ CURTIN UNI, BENTLEY 15TH - 17TH AUGUST
Need to know more about plant diseases? Do you need a better understanding of plant disease control measures? If you would like a detail understanding about these questions and more on broad acre crop diseases then the upcoming Plant Disease Identification Course will provide you with the knowledge you are seeking via practical hands-on learning. Run by the Department of Food and Agriculture, Contact Brigette Lacey on 9690 1550 or 9690 2128 Email B.Lacey@curtin.edu.au for more information or download: http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=7006. They are also hold a plant nutrition course on the July 18 – 20th.
Open http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/2731/AgT_Flyer-Crop_Pasture_Nutrition_JulyBL06.pdf

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 4th September, 1.00 pm
Octagon Theatre, University of Western Australia      Tuesday 5th September, 1.00 pm
Wongan Hills Hotel, Wongan Hills                              Wednesday 6th September, 1.00 pm
Bruce Rock Town Hall, Bruce Rock                           Thursday 7th 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. Download brochure linked.
For the event brochure contact Lisa Mayer admin@lfgn.org.au

**HERBICIDE RESISTANCE MANAGEMENT AND ROTATIONS WORKSHOP**

Bill Roy, ACARS and David Minkey from DAFWA and WAHRI will be conducting a joint workshop on Friday, 11th August for SEPWA. If you would like more information, please contact Bill Roy by email acarsroy@bigpond.net.au

**GROUP TOURS & ACTIVITIES**

**RAIN AND JERDACUTTUP TOP CROP AND PASTURE GROUP VISIT SA IN AUGUST**

Members from Jerdacuttup and Ravensthorpe will travel to South Australia at the end of August. They were the successful recipients of a GRDC’s Industry Development Awards to support growers to learn from other groups. The last week of August tour participants will look at perennials on the York Peninsula, subsoil constraint trial sites around Clare, visit the Turretfield Evaluation site before the group head of to Kangaroo Island. On the way back they will visit Renewable Energy Australia Biodiesel Plant in Largs Bay, WAITE and the Australian Centre for Plant Genomic in Adelaide.

Please contact Julianne Hill on 9838-1997 for more information.

**NYABING FARM IMPROVEMENT GROUP ON TOUR WITH FACEY GROUP IN SA**

Some Nyabing Farm Improvement Groups members are with Facey Group members on tour in South Australia at present (first week of July). They were another Group successful in applying for funds to GRDC under the Industry Development Award program. In the study tour participants will look at a range of innovative cereal and mixed farming enterprises throughout SA, including a day at Kangaroo Island where participants will look at rotational grazing, marron, viticulture, prime lambs, sheep dairy and visit a leading farmer who specialises in pastures, White Suffolk stud sheep and cattle.

Upon their return you can contact Amie Goulding on 9888 1223 for any information from the tour.

**NORTH STIRLING PALLINUP NATURAL RESOURCES GROUP, TRIP TO ESPERANCE – 2006**
To coincide with the Esperance Downs Research Station (EDRS) and South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA) Field Day, North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources are planning a field trip to the Esperance region from the 18th – 20th September 2006. The tour will include visits to local farms and trial plots highlighting raised bed farming and perennial pastures. Members and other interested landholders may express their interest for attending the event and we will update them accordingly as planning progresses. Please contact Liz Bungey, Chair Field days & Tours Sub-committee on 98276020 or Shannon Sounness, NRM Coordinator on 98281086.

NORTHERN AGRI GROUP NEWSLETTER
The Northern Agri Group put together an excellent monthly newsletter for their members. The May 2006 newsletter can be viewed on the LFGN website.

Calendar of Events
KELLERBERRIN DEMONSTRATION GROUP will be holding a field walk on the 20th July. The group have farmer scale trials on fungicides, potash and lime. Contact James Eyres of Farm Focus Consultants for more details 0429 883348 or email mail@farmfocus.com.au

BROOKTON LCDC have arranged a Plant Available Water Workshop with CSIRO on 25th July starting at 9am and finishing at 2.30pm in Brookton. For more information contact Micheal Eva on 0428 425 005 or email roseworthyfarms@bigpond.com. Plant Available Water Workshops are also planned for 26th July in Hyden, hosted by the Holt Rock Group (Contact: Landon Bristow-Baohm on 9880 7028) and 27th July in Jerramungup, hosted by the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group (Ph. 08 983511270). All farmers are welcome to attend these workshops.

GREENHILLS PRODUCTION GROUP are planning an information day on sheep nutrition end of July and are welcoming new members to the group. For more information contact Kevin Davies on 9641 4074. kjacdavies@bigpond.com

COCGO Regional Meetings on 4th July at Condingup Community Centre 3.30 – 5.00pm followed by Scaddan Golf Club 7pm – 8.30pm. Wednesday 5th July starting in Lake King at the Sports Pavilion at 11-12.30, Ravensthorpe Community Centre 2-3.30pm, Munglinup Community Centre 6-7.30pm. Have your say in where they invest in R&D.

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.
CONTROL TRAFFIC FARMING CONFERENCE, 27 - 29 SEPT 2006 BALLARAT VICTORIA
The 4th Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Conference is to be held in Ballarat, Victoria. A national conference suitable for all cropping industries including grain, cotton, horticulture and sugar. All previous conferences have been held in Queensland so this might be a more relevant conference to attend. See http://www.controlledtrafficfarming.com/ for more information

CONTACT US
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