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 lfgn@admin.org.au. Visit www.lfgn.org.au for previous editions of Newswire.

**BIRCHIP AND VICTORIAN REGIONS TOUR**

A group of nine Local Farmer Group Network members, together with three Grower Group Alliance representatives will participate in a GRDC funded tour which includes meeting with TopCrop groups near Horsham, Grain Technology Park in Horsham, a visit to the Wimmera Grain Company in Rupanyup, and a visit to Birchip Cropping Group Expo. The tour departs on Monday 26th June and returns on Friday 30th June. For more information on the tour, contact Lisa Mayer (08) 6488 7937 or email admin@lfgn.org.au.

**YUNA FARM IMPROVEMENT GROUP – CASE STUDY**

The Yuna Farm Improvement Group (YFIG) is a progressive group who are involved, not only in farm trials and field days, but also in community projects. YFIG have been instrumental in raising funds to purchase a community bus, partially fund a biannual trip for its members and support social events and field days.

Read more about how this dynamic group continues to support itself and the community it is involved with go to the website http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1522/Case_study_Newswire_June_2006.pdf

**NINGHAN FARM FOCUS GROUP TRIAL RESULTS**

Last year the Ninghan Farm Focus Group conducted over 15 trials in and around their Mukinbudin trial site with many collaborators. The first year’s results of the Seeding System Trial are now available. Visit the Groups website http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1529/Ninghan_Wheat_results05.pdf

**NORTHERN AGRI GROUP RELEASE FIRST ‘YEAR BOOK’**

Congratulations to the NAG people who have successfully completed their first Year Book which summarises all the trials, demonstrations, seminars and workshops conducted by the group and its collaborators in the past year. The NAG group had over twenty trials with support from CRT, CSBP, Summitt, PlanFarm and Elders. The book is now available from Group Secretary Michelle Allen Ph 08 9920 3047 or allenlender@bigpond.com.

**RAIN BRINGS RESULTS**

The Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN) has delivered its first year results from a NLP funded seeding systems trial at Mt Madden. The Group has worked in conjunction with WANTFA to set up the trial looking at stubble management effects on the longer term health of soils and crop production. This three year trial is located at Owen Browley's property, near Lake King. For the AgriTech Research report on the trial, visit the groups website http://www.lfgn.org.au/groups/south_east/RAIN_Group A summary of both the Ninghan and RAIN seeding systems trials result can be found in this months WANTFA newsletter.

**SOUTHERN LOCAL FARMER GROUP INITIATIVE**

A proposal to help support local groups at the regional level has been circulated to Group Chairpersons in the southern region. There are over 15 local farmer groups in the region. It is
envisaged better coordination of these groups’ activities at the regional level would facilitate better integration of sustainable farming systems research across the district. A solution is to appoint a Communications Officer who would support communication between the groups across the region and act as a host to visiting researchers.

This initiative is a result of a meeting with local group leaders in Esperance in April 2006. Groups in the region have been invited to comment before any further action is pursued. For a copy of the Proposal, contact Paul Carmody, lfgn@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

REGIONAL BREAKFAST MEETINGS

Encouraging better communication across the Local Farmer Group Network has initiated a series of regional networking breakfast meetings for leaders. The breakfasts will occur during July in Geraldton, Merredin, Katanning and Northam. Regional government authorities including, Catchment Councils, Regional Development Commissions and Department of Agriculture and Food will be attending, along with LFGN and GGA leaders. For more information contact Lisa Mayer, admin@lfgn.org.au

GRDC WESTERN REGIONAL PANEL TO VISIT GERALDTON

The GRDC Western Regional Panel will be visiting the Geraldton region on 27-29 June 2006. This visit is part of the GRDC investment cycle which sees Panel members engage with growers and industry throughout the year to seek their views on issues within the grains industry. These views will be discussed and prioritised by the Panel on 29 June and may be incorporated into GRDC R&D investment plan for 2007/08.

The Panel will be spending time with the Mingenew-Irwin Group (MIG), Casuarina Walkaway Farm Improvement Group and the Northern Agri Group (NAG) on 27 June. The visit will give growers an opportunity to meet the Panel members and discuss issues they experience in their growing region.

On June 28 the Panel will view trials and meet staff and management of Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA). This will be followed by discussions with agribusiness representatives.

For more details contact Julia Polkinghorne, j.polkinghorne@grdc.com.au

BIO DIESEL 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

2006 GROUP LEADERS WORKSHOP DVD

A DVD of the Local Farmer Group Leaders workshop is now available. The 60 minute DVD includes some of the highlights of the Local Farmer Group Leaders workshop earlier this year and CSIRO scientist, Dr Rhonda Foley’s full presentation titled “What is GM Technology?”. People who are interested in receiving a copy of the DVD please email Lisa Mayer admin@lfgn.org.au.

LOCATION DOMAIN NAMES UP FOR GRABS

Community organisations interested in setting up web address that reflect their location should register their interest with Community Geographic Domain Name at www.aucd.org.au. Community based not-for-profit organisations that are able to demonstrate that they represent the local community will be able to apply for one of the new Community Geographic Domain Names from July. For example; munglingup.wa.au or ogilvie.wa.au.
PILOT OF INTERACTIVE LOCAL GROUP WEBSITE

A pilot website which offers local groups the opportunity to build their own content without a substantial knowledge of the web has been established. Over the next three months we would like to work with two local groups who are interested in creating a useful format for the new interactive, self-managed website. A small amount of input is required with the result being that the website will more precisely meet the needs of the groups. Be the first group to have your own interactive website which is set up to meet your groups needs!

Please register your interest with Lisa Mayer 08 6488 1957 who will be developing the interactive site.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Nuffield Scholarship
Experience the opportunity of a lifetime – become a Nuffield scholar and gain valuable contacts in the domestic and international agricultural industry, enjoy an individualized study programme and travel the world to view other agricultural industries. The Nuffield Scholarship Programme provides assistance to the value of $25,000 and applications close on 30th June, 2006. For further information contact Jim Geltch on 02 6964 6600 or go to www.nuffield.com.au

Science and innovation awards for young rural people
Young Australians (18-35 year olds) with innovative ideas on how to boost the competitiveness of our rural industries can apply for up to $10,000 under a national awards programme. In 2006 there are 20 awards on offer; 12 that are industry-based, and one from each State and Territory.

This year's major sponsor is the Grains Research & Development Corporation.

Applications close on Friday 30 June 2006 and can be submitted online at www.daff.gov.au/scienceawards

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

Plant Available Water Workshops to Run Again
The CSIRO Soil water workshops were well received by groups during the 2005 winter season and applications are now being sought for 2006. Workshop topics include the soil water cycle, improving water capture and storage, soil water measurement and use of the information in crop management. The half day workshops are planned to start the week of 19 June for Northern wheat belt and 24 July in central and eastern wheat belt. Expressions of Interest close 19 May.

For more info go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=5981
Click here for a report on 2005 workshops.

Grain Risk Management Workshop or Training Program
Profarmer in conjunction with LFGN are currently working on developing a Grain Marketing Risk Management Training Program for the coming year. Groups who are interested in participating in such a training program with an independent professional please contact Paul Carmody lfgn@cyllene.uwa.edu.

Introduction to Soils Laboratory Workshop: UWA
Farmers interested in soil testing, why we test and what we test will have the opportunity to participate in a soil laboratory workshop this July. A half day laboratory workshop includes soil acidity testing, salinity, root penetration, soil respiration and microbes monitoring. Farmers are encouraged to bring in their soil sample for testing themselves. Developed by LFGN and the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences you are invited to participate in an Introduction to Soils Laboratory Workshop on the 10th or 17th July at The University of Western Australia, Perth. Please express your interest in this workshop by June 30th by emailing Lisa Mayer admin@lfgn.org.au.
GROUP TOURS

Nyabing Farm Improvement Group to visit SA with Facey Group

Some Nyabing Farm Improvement Groups members will join Facey Group members in a visit to South Australia as a result of the Facey Group’s successful application for GRDC’s Industry Development Awards. In the first week of July study tour participants will look at a range of innovative cereal and mixed farming enterprises throughout SA, including meeting with the MacKillop Group and visit to Tatiara Seeds. The tour will conclude with 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.

Some places may still be available. Please contact Amie Goulding on 9888 1223 if you are interested.

North Stirlings 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.

Calendar of Events

Northern Agri Group, together with Evergreen Farming, are holding a Perennial Pastures Field Day on 23 June, commencing at 12.00pm on Don Nairn’s property off East Binnu Rd. The field walk will include Tagasaste, Lucerne and Sirato, Saltland Pasture and Perennial mixes.

West River Catchment Group hold their first field walk for the season on Tuesday 20th June starting at 9am on Adrian and Brett Kershaw’s property, corner of West River and Fitzgerald Rd, at West River. Later the same day Jerdacuttup TopCrop and Pasture Group will also meet. Guests include Troy Bungey (Landmark), Shannon Meyer (Elders) and Dave Eksteen (United Farmers), Neil Ballard (Ballard Seeds) and Julianne Hill (DAFWA). More information contact Julie Anne on 98381997.

North Mallee Farm Improvement Group start this season field walks also on 20th June at 1 pm at Lorry Starcevich’s property with guest speakers from ABB.

For a complete list of events for 2006 go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/calendar

CONTACT US

Paul Carmody or Lisa Mayer
Local Farmer Group Network
08 6488 1987 or 08 6488 7937
Fax 08 6488 1002
Mb 0427 997 878
lfgn@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
www.lfgn.org.au