The Grower Group Alliance Newswire provides information about a range of grower group activities, training events, field days and funding opportunities for the benefit of all grower groups. You are welcome to forward this Newswire to others who may be interested and encourage them to join the email list by emailing Lisa Mayer. Click here for previous editions of Newswire.

New Project – New Name!
The combined Grower Group Alliance and Local Farmer Group Network project is now called the Grower Group Alliance (GGA), following an official vote at the inaugural combined project workshop, held at The Vines on the 15th and 16th August.

Keep a look out for the new Grower Group Alliance website which is coming soon!

Grower Group Staff Changes....A message from Lisa
Sadly, I will be leaving the GGA and joining the staff at Curtin University in a public relations role with their Science Faculty. Thank you everyone, both growers and researchers, you have been a pleasure to work with.

A new Development Officer will be appointed to assist Tracey Gianatti to continue to support your group and offer a resource rich with information, skills and contacts. For more information email Tracey Gianatti or phone 6488 3410.

All the best – Lisa Mayer

Free Double DVD - Managing Your Farmer Group & CLIMA Research
Two new DVDs are available from the Grower Group Alliance. The first contains extracts from the 2006 Grower Group Alliance workshop on group skills. Presented by Nigel McGuckian, it contains valuable information for group members on the fundamental roles and responsibilities attached to successfully managing a farmer group.

The second DVD profiles the work of CLIMA researchers - Professor Neil Turner, Dr Jon Clements, Dr Heather Clarke, Margaret Campbell and Dr Angelo Loi. It provides a ‘taste’ of the type of projects that CLIMA manages and is also an encouragement for farmer groups to organise their own tour of UWA’s facilities. To order your DVD email Lisa Mayer or phone 6488 7937.

Soil Quality Website is a Winner!
The interactive web site www.soilquality.org.au has won the Not for Profit category of the 2007 WA Web Awards.

Dr Daniel Murphy from the University of Western Australia said “the web site launched in March of this year is an interactive free service designed for growers and agribusiness”. One feature of the
site is the ability to compare your own paddock soil tests against stored catchment data. Other features include interactive calculators that address the economics of management practices and fact sheets on soil biological, chemical and physical properties.

**Free ‘Tips and Tricks to Running a Great Field Day’**
With the Spring field day season nearly here, we have a limited number of copies of ‘Tips and Tricks to Running a Great Field Day’, compiled by Tracey Gianatti of the Grower Group Alliance. For your free copy please email Lisa Mayer or phone 6488 7937.

**Sheep Australia Gives Options for Mixed Farming Operations**
Increased farm equity, lower risk and potentially higher returns – A new WA-based company, “Sheep Australia”, aims to make these dreams a reality under their new livestock management concept.

Sheep Australia follows a business plan similar to those operating in the New Zealand dairy industry. The farmer retains land ownership whilst Sheep Australia owns the livestock and leases non-cropping land from the farmer. The farmer and land owner therefore has greater equity through the liquidation of the sheep flock, no production-based exposure to risk in the sheep operation and potentially higher returns from the land lease agreement than achieved through sheep farming.

Sheep Australia is actively seeking farmers interested in this exciting management concept and farmers can contact Sheep Australia Director, Murray Gmeiner on 9243 6562, or visit the Sheep Australia website at www.sheepaustralia.com.au

**Business Mentoring for Farmers**
The Rural Business Development Corporation is currently developing a business mentoring program for farmers and needs your feedback on the idea.

The program aims to provide individual farmers (or a group of farmers) with a mentor to help them develop skills for their business enterprise. Applicants will be selected through a competitive process. Mentors will be drawn from the urban business community and will bring a perspective that is not from the traditional rural landscape. Further details can be found here.

If you like the sound of this idea and want it to go ahead, please email Murray Gmeiner or phone 0427 362 537.

**National Competition Launch**
Australian Wool International (AWI) has announced it will run a national competition to identify, reward and promote efficient and profitable sheep producers across Australia. Partners in the competition include MLA, Sheep CRC and Grain and Graze. The competition will be managed by the Kondinin Group.

The competition will be open to all commercial sheep and wool producers in all states of Australia. The winning entry from each state will be rewarded with a visit as a group to the enterprises all of the state winners. From the state winners, a national winner will be selected who will gain a two week study tour for two people to a destination/ institution that will help them increase the performance of their sheep enterprise (prize to the value of $10,000). Further details can be found here.

**Pestfax N° 17 – Friday 24 August**
Articles on first wheat leaf rust detected for the season, Pest Fax
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The GRDC Industry Development Awards (IDAs) - Due 31 August
Is your group interested in organising a study tour or doing some form of group training to develop new skills, build relationships and acquire new information that will contribute to building a sustainable and profitable grains industry?

The GRDC invites and assesses Industry Development Award applications twice a year. The deadlines are:
Friday 31 August 2007: for activities undertaken between December 2007 and June 2008
Friday 29 February 2008: for activities undertaken between June 2008 and January 2009.

The application and reporting process are outlined on the GRDC website.

GRDC Conference Sponsorship - Due 31 August
Are members of your group interested in attending 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. There are two application periods per year:
Friday 31 August 2007: for conferences held no earlier than December 2007
Friday 29 February 2008: for conferences held no earlier than June 2008.

The application and reporting process are outlined on the GRDC website.

GRDC Travel Sponsorship - Due 31 August
Would your group like financial assistance for a member to attend a conference or undertake travel that may ultimately benefit the Australian grains industry? This Award is designed for individuals rather than the whole group.

Closing dates are Friday 31 August 2007 (for travel between December 2007 and June 2008), and Friday 29 February 2008 (for travel between June 2008 and January 2009). The application and reporting process are outlined on the GRDC website.

MLA Producer Initiated Research Support Grants – Due 14 September
Meat and Livestock Australia's (MLA) Producer Initiated Research and Development (PIRD) program offers up to $15,000 assistance per grant, and is available to beef, lamb, sheepmeat and goatmeat producer groups Australia-wide.

The MLA’s key strategies include: increasing production, decreasing rate of mortality, decreasing age at sale, increasing meat quality, decreasing costs of production and developing environmentally sustainable practices. Growers who are interested in carrying out trials in conjunction with, but not limited to, agricultural consultants, researchers, and their own farming group are encouraged to apply. General details can be found here.

For more information contact the Producer Research Support Coordinator - Gerald Martin on (08) 8556 2900 or email gerald@agresults.com.au. A second round of funding will close on Thursday 28 February 2008.
Healthy Soils for Healthy Farms - Due 24 September
Funding is available to individuals, farmer or industry groups to address issues impacting on soil health, to run field days and workshops or to produce publications focused on soil management issues. This project is an initiative of the South West Catchments Council and the area targeted is within the South West Region. For more information email Mark Whitten, phone 9780 6297 or read the application form.

Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC)
Preliminary Research Proposals – Due 25 September
RIRDC is in the knowledge business – they invest in research and development to create knowledge to support more profitable, sustainable and dynamic rural industries and communities. Maximising the knowledge outcomes from R&D investments - new rural industries, specific established rural industries and national rural issues are the priorities.

RIRDC encourages proposals that deliver on some, or all, of the research priorities in our sector five-year R&D plans, and gives preference to industry supported proposals. The relevant plans and documents can be found on the RIRDC website.

New Industries Development Programme (Round 16) – Due 26 September
Pilot Commercialisation Projects (PCP) should be innovative, market driven, sustainable and aim to commercialise new agribusiness products, services or technologies. Applicants need to demonstrate the project's potential for market success. As such, the initial market assessment and the research and development stage of the project should have been completed.
Funding for PCP projects is provided on a matched dollar for dollar basis with the applicant. The New Industries Development Program's contribution is from $35,000 to $120,000 (net of GST). For more information go to the website.

Grants for Small Rural Communities – Due 30 September
Retention of young people in rural and regional Australia; community hardship in drought effected areas and community infrastructure are all preferred projects for this $5000 grant. Click here for more information.

GRDC Agribusiness Trial Extension Network – Due 4 October
Grower groups are encouraged to apply for funding for agronomic trial projects which involve the group as well as private agronomists and agribusiness. Six individual projects will be funded to the value of $25,000 per project with an expectation that the project will be completed within the 12 month timeframe. For more information email Angela Ditton, ph: 02 6272 5525 or go to the GRDC website.

Participate in the World Ag Expo in California (12-14 February, 2008) – EOI Due 5 October
World Ag Expo is the largest farm show in the world with 1600 exhibitors from 60 countries displaying the latest in agricultural equipment, technology, products and services to an audience of over 100,000 visitors.
Expressions of interest from innovative Australian agribusinesses wanting to participate as part of the Australian Pavilion at the 2008 World Ag Expo are sought by Austrade.

For more information contact Lucy Coward, Senior Export Adviser – USA Australian Trade Commission website or phone 02 9390 2181.
AWARDS

Farmsafe Safety Awards 2007 – Due 30 August
The National Farmsafe “Farmer of the Year” and “Farm Safety Group” Awards are designed to recognise excellence in Australian Farm Health and Safety promotion and practice. The awards have a particular focus on acknowledging individuals, groups and farmers who promote and combine sustainable health and safety practices with profitable production.


Community Awards for Women – Due 31 August
These $5000 awards are aimed at women who assist their community in one of the following areas: economic independence, gender equality, safety and justice, leadership and governance, and community participation. The grants are for the purpose of enabling recipients to undertake work or research overseas, interstate or within WA and apply that knowledge in their community.

Application packages are available from the Women’s Information Service, (08) 6217 8230 or download the application form.

Regional Achievement and Community Awards – Due 5 September
The Awards encourage, acknowledge and reward valuable contributions and outstanding achievements of individuals, networks and groups in regional and rural areas. The focus of the awards is small to medium size businesses, organisations involved in promoting the community through events and tourism, individuals providing leadership and initiative and community groups enhancing the social, economic, commercial and environmental prosperity of their region.
For more information go to the website.

RIRDC Rural Womens Award – Due 15 October
The Award provides a Bursary of $10,000 for each of the seven State and Territory winners and the opportunity for the winner AND runner up in each State and Territory to attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course. The Award also provides the opportunity for one of the seven State and Territory winners to be selected as the RIRDC Rural Women’s Award Australian winner to represent the Award and RIRDC. Click here for more information.

GRDC Agricultural Training Awards (ATA) Due 26 October
GRDC Agricultural Training Awards (ATAs) are one year scholarships designed to increase an individual’s understanding of the knowledge and skills that are required for a successful career in the Australian grains industry. It is essential that applicants demonstrate intent to work for the Australian grains industry. This award is not for a tertiary degree but for undertaking full time study at a recognised vocational education and training provider institution in 2008.

Each award is valued at $3,000. For more information go to the GRDC website.

2007/08 DuPont Australia New Zealand Innovation Awards – Due 2 November
The biennial DuPont Innovation Awards program is an independently judged competition, launched in 2004, to recognise the introduction of a new innovative technology, application, product or service. The Awards are open for entry to individuals, companies or tertiary students.
To find out more and download an entry form, visit the website or call the Awards Hotline on (02) 9923 6144.

WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

More details on the following workshops can be found on the GGA website.

Farm Biosecurity: It’s Your Business – 29, 30 & 31 August
Plant Health Australia and DAFWA will run free on-farm biosecurity training courses for grain growers and agronomists to increase their understanding of major exotic crop pests, responses to emergence plant pests and diseases, national arrangements for grower reimbursements, national plans to collect evidence. Locations and dates include: South Perth – 29 August, Lake Grace – 30 August and Northam – 31 August. Email Keith Devenish, or phone him at DAFWA on 9368 3600.

Producer Collaborative Business Models – Monday 3 September
It is important for producers of like commodities to work together and pool their resources in order to be competitive in the market place. This workshop is for those producers who would like to know more about how best to work together, the models, the legalities and how to get started. We encourage several members of your group to attend to gain the most benefit from the day. The full day workshop will be held at the DAFWA Centre for Cropping Systems in Northam.

All producer groups and potential producer groups are invited to attend, regardless of the commodity you are growing. Speakers include Brad Plunkett, DAFWA and Peter Wells, Cooperatives WA. Cost is $20. More information contact Monica Durcan, AVONGRO: 9291 8249, mdurcan@iinet.net.au or download the PDF.

Healthy Soils for Healthy Farms – EOI Due 24 September
This project is a joint initiative between the Department of Agriculture and Food and South West Catchment Council (SWCC).

The project can provide funding to individuals, farmer or industry groups to address issues impacting on soil health, to run field days and workshops or to produce publications focused on soil management issues. Issues such as acidity, fertility decline, waterlogging, soil carbon levels, salinity, structure decline, biological activity and water repellancy are just some of the issues that could be addressed through this project. All projects must be completed by June 2008.

For more information and application forms email Mark Whitten or phone 9780 6297. To view EOI click here.

On Farm Grain Storage and Fumigation Workshops – On an ‘as needed’ basis
This workshop aims to increase growers understanding of the principles of effective grain storage and correct fumigation methods. Specifically, growers will gain an appreciation of how to control low level phosphine resistance in on-farm storages.

Cost of this workshop is fully funded by CBH and DAFWA. In order to organise a workshop for your group, email Georgie Elliott at CBH or phone her on 9545 0391. To download the EOI click here.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
To view the full Grower Group Alliance Calendar of Events go to the [website](#).

### Spring Field Days

**Morawa Farm Improvement Group Spring Field Day – 5 September**  
For more information contact Teresa Tubby, 9972 2102, [mfig@bbsat.com.au](mailto:mfig@bbsat.com.au)

**Mingenew-Irwin Group Spring Field Day – 6 September**  
For more information contact Debbie Allen, 9928 1506, [dallen@westnet.com.au](mailto:dallen@westnet.com.au)

**WANTFA Spring Field Day – 11 September**  
Highlights include 24 no-till system trials, also topical tents on soil health, seeding system and spray technology with guest speaker - Dr Jack Desbiolles, Agricultural Engineer from the University of South Australia. For more information contact Kim Lord, 9622 3395, [kim.lord@wantfa.com.au](mailto:kim.lord@wantfa.com.au) or go to the [website](#).

**Liebe Group Spring Field Day – 13 September**  
For more information contact Brianna Peake, 9964 2030, [liebe.brianna@bigpond.com](mailto:liebe.brianna@bigpond.com)

**Esperance Downs Research Station DAFWA/SEPWA Spring Field Day – 18 September**  
For more information contact Ben Curtis, 9083 1111, [bcurtis@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:bcurtis@agric.wa.gov.au)

**RAIN Spring Field Day, Ravensthorpe – 19 September**  
For more information contact Jenny Chambers, 98381018, [rlcdc@wn.com.au](mailto:rlcdc@wn.com.au)

**Facey Group Spring Field Day Wickepin/Harrismith – 19 September**  
For more information contact Amie Bolton, 9888 1223, [eo@faceygroup.asn.au](mailto:eo@faceygroup.asn.au)

**Ninghan Farm Focus Group Spring Field Day – 20 September**  
Contact Ryan Lamond, 0428 501 855, [ryanlamond79@hotmail.com](mailto:ryanlamond79@hotmail.com) or Luke Sprigg, 0428 470041

**Jerdacuttup Topcrop Group Spring Field Day – 20 September**  
For more information contact Julianne Hill, 9838 1997, [irhill@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:irhill@agric.wa.gov.au)

**Corrigin Farm Improvement Group Spring Field Day – 21 September**  
For more information contact Sandy Turton, 9063 2699, [sturton@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:sturton@agric.wa.gov.au)

**Moora-Miling Pasture Improvement Group Spring Field Day – 21 September**  
For more information contact Tony White, 9654 1122

**Fitzgerald Biosphere Group Jerramungup District Spring Field Day – 17 October**  
For more information contact Tina Grimmond, 9835 1127, [tinagrimmond@fbg.org.au](mailto:tinagrimmond@fbg.org.au)

**Fitzgerald Biosphere Group Gardiner District Spring Field Day – 24 October**  
For more information contact Tina Grimmond, 9835 1127, [tinagrimmond@fbg.org.au](mailto:tinagrimmond@fbg.org.au)

---

**Lisa Mayer** | Communications Officer - Grower Group Alliance | ☏️ 61-8-6488 7937 | 📧 61-8-6488 1002 | lisa.mayer@uwa.edu.au

The University of Western Australia  
Faculty of Natural & Agricultural Sciences (MO82)  
35 Stirling Hwy  
CRAWLEY WA 6009