Local Farmer Groups Harvest Activities as of November 3rd

A ring around of the groups show that most are at the beginning of harvest now. Some groups are harvesting lupins and others canola and barley. For many of the groups this harvest is about a month ahead of its usual time. Yields are disappointing for most but growers are pleased with the strengthening grain prices. Variable yields and protein are being experienced in most districts although it is too early to tell what wheat is going to do. Most groups have identified that the dry hot winds of late September have had a major impact on their expected crop yield. [http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1804/LFGN_HARVESTUPDATENov06.pdf](http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1804/LFGN_HARVESTUPDATENov06.pdf)

All Crop or Mixed Systems? Grass Patch Group Look at the Options

Members of the Grass Patch Sustainable Farming Systems Groups have often challenged each other over who has the most profitable farming system. All cropping or mixed farming? With the relatively low prices especially for wool in recent years some farmers were seriously considering removing sheep from their business. For many years they have worked with staff such as Jeremy Lemon from the Esperance Agricultural Department office. So in consultation with Jeremy and the group’s chairman we put this proposed “benchmark” study to the group at one of their regular meetings. All present were very keen to follow up and so after the meeting I approached a number of families to be volunteers as case studies. Read the results at [http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1818/GrassPatchFarmSysSummaryCompare06.pdf](http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1818/GrassPatchFarmSysSummaryCompare06.pdf)

Ninghan Group Members visit WANTFA Growers for Disc Seeders

Members of the Ninghan Farm Focus Group decided they need to know more about disc seeders and how they might help their crop establishment in low rainfall farming system. Luke Sprigg, Ninghan Group Chairperson, initiated a study tour of the eastern wheatbelt in October this year and discovered more than the group expected. The key take home message for participants was, tramline farming in combination with discipline rotations is the key to good crops in low rainfall or dry years. For a full report go to [http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1529/Ningan_Trip_Oct06byWANTFA.pdf](http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1529/Ningan_Trip_Oct06byWANTFA.pdf)

Spring Field Day Wrap-Up – Seeding Systems to Fishing

Successful field days were held by a number of the Network’s groups. Seeding systems, fertilizer trials, raised beds and grain marketing were topics that were trialled and discussed at this year’s Spring Field Days. For more information go to [http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/2987/Field_Day_Wrapup_November_2006_3_.pdf](http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/2987/Field_Day_Wrapup_November_2006_3_.pdf)

Weeds Australia Web Update

The Weeds Australia web site has been updated to enable searching of their weed identification tool by NRM region. You can go directly to your respective state jump off pages at WA - [http://www.weeds.org.au/wamap-nrm.htm#map](http://www.weeds.org.au/wamap-nrm.htm#map)

This tool is built on the WEEDeck identification cards - for details of which see [http://www.weeds.org.au/weedeck.htm](http://www.weeds.org.au/weedeck.htm)

Variety purity is essential for malting barley

Growers are reminded that malting barley must be grown, stored and shipped in pure, single variety lots to produce the best quality malt and beer. Disregarding this requirement may
The grain of each malting barley variety has unique levels of enzymes and other chemical properties. The maltster will adjust the processing schedule to suit each variety they purchase. If a malt batch contains grain from more than one barley variety, the malting process is poorly regulated, over modification of the malt can occur and beer processing becomes affected.

Shipments of domestic and export malting barley risk being rejected if they contain varietal impurities. Growers who deliver impure malting barley or mis-declare loads, risk markets and jeopardise the excellent reputation Western Australian malting barley has established internationally.

Growers should ensure they know that their barley is pure and the correct variety before delivery. CBH (08 9454 0300) and AGWEST Plant Laboratories (08 9368 3721) offer varietal testing and purity analysis which can help with this diagnosis.

Prepared by: Blakely Paynter, Department of Agriculture and Food, Northam
26th October 2006

Climate Change Information
Climate Change and how it may impact on your regional climate. CSIRO have a major investment into this area with other partners. It is worthwhile visiting their website for more details.
http://www.csiro.au/csiro/content/standard/pps7u,,.html

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Research Horizons Course
“The Research Horizons course is very popular amongst the nation’s grain growers. Leading farmers from around the country are nominated by their peers to the Grains Research Development Corporation, the major stakeholder”.

This course provides an overall understanding of what happens to the grains produced and the part that research plays towards that understanding.

The course is organised by BRI Australia on behalf of the Grains Research & Development Corporation and covers such topics as crop improvement, marketing, grain quality testing, grain food products, research and development issues, commercialisation and international collaboration. For more information and to nominate go to http://www.bri.com.au/education/research-horizons.html or speak with Dr Brian Osborne (Course Director), Ph 02 8877 7840, b.osborne@bri.com.au

WORKSHOP AND PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Degradable Polyethylene Films for Agricultural Applications – EOIs by 15 November

Waterwise on the Farm – a course in the Gingin and Dandaragan area
This course is run by DAFWA for farmers who want to know more about irrigation management. The training course consists of an introductory session and then 3 half day workshops plus one on one support on your farm. The workshop sessions will be: 1 – Wed 6th December 9.30am at Gary Blight’s property in West Gingin; 2 – Tue 19th December 10am at Victor Swart’s property near Rowes Rd Dandaragan; and 3 - Tue 16th January 9.30am at Peter Cattalini’s at Wanerie (off Cowalla Rd Gingin). The cost of the course is $330.00 per participant or $550.00 per business (a maximum of 3 people per business allowed). Farmbis refunds are available. Contact James Dee -9780-6285 or jdee@agric.wa.gov.au

“Soil Health” Forum – EOIs by 24 November
Expressions of interest are being sought from groups in the Avon and South Coast regions who would like to hold a One Day Regional “Soil Health” Forum which will provide their members with the latest information and advice on optimizing soil health and how soil management fits into the farming system. For more information go to http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=8067 or contact Jessica Sheppard the ACC Soil Health Extension Officer on 08 6488 3756.

**South Coast Sustainability Indicator – EOIs by 31st December**

A new initiative aimed at grower groups along the south coast is to develop and test a set of indicators for use by land managers and agri-businesses in crop and livestock industries within the region. They are intended to indicate areas of strength in sustainability, and areas that could be improved. SCRIPT and its partners are looking for groups interested in participating in the development of sustainability indicators for the farms in the region. More information http://www.lfgn.org.au/current_opportunities?f=8300

**GROUP TOURS & ACTIVITIES**

**Nyabing Group host Womens Grain Marketing Workshop**

A Ladies Grain Marketing Workshop hosted by the Nyabing Farm Improvement Group was held in August of this year. This is the first in a series of two, the second workshop is planned for November this year. Women attending the CBH organised day found it to be useful and it was a great opportunity for the ladies to get together. If your group would like to run a Grain Marketing Workshop speak with Mae Connelly, CBH Grain Pool Manager on Mae.Connelly@cbh.com.au

**North Stirling Pallinup NR Group’s Esperance Field Trip - 18th – 20th September 2006**

The North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources Group hosted an extensive field trip to the southern Agricultural regions. The objective of the trip being to gain an insight into practices not common in the group members’ area. Read a complete report on the trip at http://www.lfgn.org.au/__data/page/1720/NSPNR_Esperance_Field_Trip_2007.pdf

**Grower Groups to Host Regional Crop Updates in 2007**

For the first time ever since the beginning of the Regional Crop Updates, the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) are directly negotiating with grower groups to host the regional Crop Updates in 2007. Some grower groups within the Grower Group Alliance have been approached by the Crop Updates Management Committee. Groups have until November 17th to present their case to the Committee for host the Update early next year.

Crop Updates are about delivering the latest cropping systems and grain production research results to the West Australian Grains industry. The Crop Updates provide a critical link between researchers and industry, ensuring the timely and relevant delivery of information and facilitating the adoption of the new technology.

For more information contact Greg Shea, Development Officer, Department of Agriculture and Food, Merredin (Ph 90813112) or email gshea@agric.wa.gov.au

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**CLIMA Seminars**

**Tuesday 7th November 1.30 – 2.15pm**

Dr John Walsh, Warwick HRI, UK  Topic 1: Viruses infecting canola and mustard
Adj. Prof. Roger Jones, DAFWA  Topic 2: Resistance to *Turnip mosaic virus* in Australian canola genotypes

In the CLIMA seminar room, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, UWA.

Further information: clima@cyllene.uwa.edu.au  tel: 6488 2505

There is a map of the venue location and a booklet of seminar abstracts on the CLIMA website at: www.clima.uwa.edu.au/seminars

**Bioenergy Australia Conference  6th – 12th December, Fremantle**

Check through the GGA Calendar of Events http://www.lfgn.org.au/calendar

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