FIELD DAY WRAP UP

Seeding systems, raised beds, grain marketing and fishing were among the topics covered at 2006 spring field days organised by Local Farmer Group Network (LFGN) member groups.

LFGN Co-ordinator Paul Carmody said spring field days allowed local farmers to assess varieties and crop performance and review different technology.

“This experience is enhanced when groups invite other groups to attend their field days and share experiences,” he said.

At the recent RAIN spring field day at Owen Brownley’s Mt Madden property, members of the RAIN group discussed the merits of raised beds in the region.

Raised beds are usually associated with high rainfall areas and participants examined how blade ploughs help form raised seed beds in medium to low rainfall conditions.

“This fluffing up of the soil improves root penetration and water filtration into the soil profile,” Mr Brownley said.

SEPWA wheat variety trials and a Summit fertilizer trial were incorporated into the day.

Seeding systems were also discussed at the Ninghan Farm Focus Group spring field day held at Mukinbudin on Friday 22nd September.

According to Ninghan Group Chairperson, Luke Sprigg, the field day showed members and visitors how different seeders work under tough seeding conditions.

“We’ve trialed seeding systems, break crops, disease management, long season wheat varieties and biological agents to enhance crop nutrition”, said Mr Sprigg.

The Nyabing Farm Improvement Group incorporated trials on Canola Breeeders’ WA canola varieties and Agseed material, and a DAFWA talk on locusts at its October 10th field day.

Nyabing’s Rachael Springbett said many participants were surprised at the higher than expected level of locust populations measured by DAFWA in our area.

The Yuna Farm Improvement Group (FIG) and the Northern Agri Group, participated in a different spring field day format this year due to the drought.

The Yuna FIG hosted a fishing day, north of Geraldton, followed by a barbeque which was attended by over 150 local farmers.

Yuna FIG Chairman John Warr said that there was very little point in having a field day considering how the crop trials look, so we thought this would be a good way of boosting people's morale.
The LFGN was established in 2003 with the support of the Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC) to address the needs of small, localised farmer groups.

LFGN aims to assist groups in establishing links with other groups and field days have proven an excellent vehicle for this to occur.

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