



MEDIA RELEASE – Thursday 28th August, 2014

EDRS field day a platform for precision agriculture

Precision Agriculture and the future of agricultural technologies will be the focus of this year's Esperance Downs Research Station (EDRS) Field Day.

Set for September 11, the region's premier field day will showcase the latest research, trials and farming practices applicable to Esperance Port Zone farmers.

The event is being organised by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) in conjunction with the South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association (SEPWA).

This year there will be numerous trials to view across 30 hectares of the EDRS research station along with an exciting line-up of speakers talking about a range of agronomic issues.

With precision agriculture in the spotlight, the key note speakers include Victorian based precision agricultural (PA) expert, Emma Leonard and New South Wales farmer, Michael Pfitzner.

For more than two decades, Emma has specialised in communicating agricultural research to promote adoption of new practices and technologies by farmers and advisers through SPAA, Precision Agriculture Australia.

Griffith farmer, Michael runs a dryland cropping enterprise and uses a 12m Controlled Traffic Farming system on 3m centres and he is dedicated to the "business of farming moisture".

Local PA experts include SEPWA's Nigel Metz who will cover spatial agronomy and Cascade farmer, Paul Carmody who will share his experiences with the use of Agri Track in the paddock.

Booths in the sheds at EDRS will provide further information on such PA related topics such as: UAV's (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), spatial agronomy, and mobile Apps including MyCrop.

Later in the day, participants will have the opportunity to view trials including timing of nitrogen applications for canola, canola breeding trials, water repellence and more.

DAFWA speakers include Ben Curtis and Georgia Oliver on pre-harvest sprouting tolerance and phenology trial work and Sally Peltzer will speak about controlling annual ryegrass in fence lines.

Andrea Hills will detail trial work on the control of leaf disease in Mace wheat, Blakeley Paynter will discuss agronomic management of new barley varieties and Geoff Thomas will cover control of spot type net blotch in barley.

DAFWA Director General Rob Delane will also be in attendance and he will speak at the close of the field day.

PLATINUM SPONSORS



DIAMOND SPONSORS



South East Premium Wheat Growers Association MEDIA RELEASE

The day will kick off with breakfast, cooked by SEPWA Platinum sponsor –Rabobank, at 7.45am and it will finish back in the sheds with a sundowner at around 4pm.

Lunch and refreshments throughout the day will be fully catered for and included in the cost of \$20 for SEPWA members and \$30 for non-members.

If you would like to register, for EDRS field day which is set for September 11, contact Jan Clawson at janclawson@bigpond.com or 0407 990 497.

Aside from EDRS Field Day, the South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association, along with other groups, will organise a number of other field days throughout the region.

The local field days will allow farmers to check out the latest trials and research in close proximity to their farms and talk with researchers and agribusiness representatives.

Field days will be held throughout the region and include:

Condingup/Beaumont – September 4th, contact Lyndon Mickel: 0427 766 029
Jerdacuttup - September 9th, contact Elisa Spengler: 0417 174 299
West Ravensthorpe – September 16th, contact Elisa Spengler: 0417 174 299
Lake King - September 23rd, contact Elisa Spengler: 0417 174 299
Cascade - September 23rd, contact Murray Ayers: 0427 792 018
North Mallee - September 24th, contact Lee Chester: 9083 1111
Neridup - September 25th, contact Jane Meiklejohn: 0408 956 215

Mark the date of your local field date in your diary now. For further information or any queries contact SEPWA Executive Officer, Niki Curtis on 9083 1125.

Photo captions

- *Guest speaker at EDRS field day, Emma Leonard from SPAA will head the line-up of speakers focusing on precision agriculture*
- *Queensland farmer, Michael Pfitzner will talk about the business of farming moisture and controlled traffic at EDRS*

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Niki Curtis
SEPWA Executive Officer
Ph 9083 1125
Mobile 0447 908 311

PLATINUM SPONSORS



DIAMOND SPONSORS

