



Department of  
Agriculture and Food



## MEDIA RELEASE – Monday 31st August, 2015

### **Esperance Downs Research Station Field Day**

Esperance Port Zone grain growers will have the opportunity to hear the latest research and view local trials at the EDRS Spring Field Day next month.

The Esperance Downs Research Station (ERDS) field day is the region's main field day and it will be held on Thursday September 17<sup>th</sup> at the Gibson site.

It is jointly hosted by the South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association (SEPWA) and the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA).

The focus will be on 'meeting our market' and the day will include a great line up of speakers including expert DAFWA and SEPWA staff, local agronomists and growers.

SEPWA President, Greg Curnow will MC the event which brings farmers and industry representatives together.

DAFWA's Executive Director of the Grains Industry, Mark Sweetingham will speak about DAFWA's role in supporting the success of the grains industry and the future of Grains Research in the Esperance Port Zone.

Jim Riordan from Victorian based Riordan Grains will share his story of starting to sow the seeds of success in 1996 with one tipper truck to transport grain and fertiliser and a long term business strategy. Today the business is fully integrated with accumulation, transport, storage and packing services in Melbourne Port.

Local agronomist, Luke Marquis will provide a summary on the outcome of a recent SEPWA study tour to Vietnam and members of the GRDC Western Panel will discuss their role in the future of research and development in the EPZ.

DAFWA Soils Researcher, Giacomo Betti will talk about experiences with clay delving in South Australia before the day moves into the paddock to check out some local research including soil management, wheat agronomy, new varieties and canola nitrogen rates.

DAFWA's David Hall will focus on sub-soil constraints and local farmer, Ashley Reichstein will combine with Steve Davies (DAFWA) to talk about new tillage systems to overcome water repellence.

Participants will get the chance to view new wheat varieties for the south coast and listen to Peter Burgess from Kalyx and DAFWA's Jeremy Curry will talk about the options for long season wheat and barley varieties.

Following afternoon tea the paddock visits continue with a presentation from Mark Seymour (DAFWA) on the timing of nitrogen in canola; the viewing of NVT trials and an opportunity to hear from Mitch Tuffley from Advantaseeds. Andrea Hills (DAFWA) will also speak about new foliar disease control options in wheat.

There will be discussions centred around barley variety rationalisation for the Esperance Port Zone and canola breeding directions.

The EDRS spring field day provides a great platform for growers to keep up to date with the latest research and technology within the grains industry.

Registrations open at 9.30 am and morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will also be provided prior to a sundowner including a BBQ and refreshments at the end of the day.

The day will cost \$20 per person, to register contact Jan Clawson at SEPWA on 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:

North Mallee – September 9<sup>th</sup>, contact DAFWA - Lee Chester: 9083 1111  
Condingup/Beaumont – September 10<sup>th</sup>, contact Lyndon Mickel: 0427 766 029  
Cascade - September 11<sup>th</sup>, contact Murray Ayers: 0427 792 018  
West Ravensthorpe – September 15<sup>th</sup>, contact RAIN- Elisa Spengler: 0417 174 299  
EDRS - September 17<sup>th</sup>, contact Niki Curtis: 0447 908 311  
Lake King - September 22<sup>nd</sup>, contact RAIN - Elisa Spengler: 0417 174 299  
Neridup - Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September, contact Jane Meiklejohn: 0408 956 215

*Photo caption- The latest research within the grains industry will be discussed and a number of trials will be viewed at the EDRS field day in September.*

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