



## South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association

Information: Niki Curtis, 9083 1125  
Email: [co@sepwa.org.au](mailto:co@sepwa.org.au)  
Website: [www.sepwa.org.au](http://www.sepwa.org.au)

# Prosper permit gets another three years

BARLEY growers will continue to have another tool available in the fight against barley powdery mildew (BPM), following the renewal of a permit to use a Group 5 spiroxamine fungicide.

Barley powdery mildew currently poses a major threat to the barley industry.

In 2011 alone, it has been estimated that BPM caused losses approaching \$100 million in WA from yield reductions and downgrading to feed barley.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has granted another permit to SEPWA for the use of Prosper 500 EC as a triazole "break" early in the season.

The permit has been issued for only three years for WA and came into force on April 1 and will expire at the end of March, 2016.

SEPWA has worked closely with the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) to reapply for the permit which was originally approved for use last year.

Prosper is currently registered for the early season control of powdery mildew in grapevines.

The active ingredient spiroxamine is the only Group 5 (E) product available and has a unique mode of action with no known cross-resistance with other chemistry groups.

SEPWA farmer Lyndon Mickel said the permit would provide growers with another weapon in the war against powdery mildew.

He said as the disease had built up, it had led to a high dependence on the use of fungicides and the development of resistance to some chemical groups.

"The concern is that should powdery mildew mutate again, the triazoles that do work will be lost and it will expose the strobilurins which rely on a single site of action, and hence are a high resistance risk," Mr Mickel said.

"Consequently, the industry is urgently seeking access to fungicides with alternative modes of action as genetically resistant barley varieties are not anticipated to be widely available for a few more years.

"Prosper is not the answer to controlling the disease but it provides an alternative that will aid in delaying the development of



□ Powdery mildew on barley.

powdery mildew resistance in barley and it will help current fungicides last longer."

The permit states that Prosper 500 EC is to be used at 600mL/ha and applied through a boomspray before the end of tillering (Zadoks Growth Stage 29) with no more than two applications per crop, seven days apart.

It has a withholding period of 56 days before harvesting and crops are not to be

grazed or fed to livestock for 56 days after application.

Further information about the permit is available at <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER14012.PDF>.

Bayer Crop Science continue to conduct trials and undertake further research associated with Prosper and are hopeful that it will be registered for use by mid-2015.

## Farm office group gains momentum

**ESPERANCE Port Zone farm office managers have banded together to up-skill themselves to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their farm offices.**

The Esperance Farm Office Management group (EFOM), which runs as a sub-committee of the South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association (SEPWA), was formed earlier this year.

Interest in the new group has been phenomenal from farmers and all sectors of the agricultural industry in and around Esperance.

EFOM offers a forum to harness the skills and knowledge of local farmers and enable them to learn from each other as well as source professionals to up-skill them in the areas where expert training is required.

To date the group has held three meetings and they have tackled farm office software, budgeting, seasonal workers (including the correct award rates and employee induction packs), office procedures and how people use technology in the office.

The group is the initiative of local farmers Katie Gray and Tara Vermeersch who is the chairwoman and recently voted onto the SEPWA executive.

EFOM will hold regular meetings, training sessions and tours throughout the year to deal with issues such as marketing, finance, employment, budgeting, technology, salaries and much more.

Future topics include spraying and



□ EFOM helps farmers to better manage their farm offices.

**effective paddock record management, end of tax year planning such as super vs FMDs, BAS, benchmarking, occupational health and safety and grain marketing.**

Presentations along with template forms and documents shared at the meetings are available on the SEPWA website under the Farm Office heading but they are only available to SEPWA members through a password protected site.

All SEPWA financial members who want to improve their office knowledge are welcome to attend the meetings which are held on the second Monday of each month from 9am to 12 noon at the Esperance Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA).

For more information about EFOM contact Katie Gray at [ktanddods@bigpond.com](mailto:ktanddods@bigpond.com) or Niki Curtis at SEPWA on 0447 908 311.

## Neridup farmer takes over as the new SEPWA president

THE leadership baton for the South East Premium Wheat Growers' Association (SEPWA) has been passed on after the election of office bearers recently.

Neridup farmer David Cox has taken over the reins as president from Condungup farmer Lyndon Mickel.

Cascade farmer Greg Curnow retains the role of vice president, farm consultant Eric Nankivell continues as treasurer while agronomist Angus Sellars has been elected as secretary.

Other executive members include Lyndon Mickel, Murray Ayers, Andrew Chambers, Andrew Fowler, Craig Newman, Chris Reichstein, Steve Tilbrook and newly elected Tara Vermeersch.

New SEPWA president David Cox with wife Sally and two children farm two properties, one of 5000 hectares at Neridup and another of 3000ha near Hyden.

They grow barley and canola and also run 2000 head of cattle on their South Coast property.

David is a Nuffield Scholar and last year was a finalist in the Grain Grower of the Year Award.

He has also been active in the promotion



□ New SEPWA president David Cox (left) with outgoing president Lyndon Mickel.

of strategically grazing crops, a practice he has adopted across his South Coast farm to fill the winter feed gap and improve the overall profitability of his business.

Nitrogen (N) management is another issue David has addressed with the development of a calculator to measure the deficiency of N in a crop through the use of N rich strips to make an accurate nitrogen recommendation.

David said he was excited to take on role of president and the responsibility of maintaining SEPWA as an extremely successful organisation.

## First female executive member

SEPWA has welcomed its first female executive member to the committee.

Newly elected executive member Tara Vermeersch and husband Jason have a young child and farm at Cascade with Jason's family where Tara is involved in doing the farm books.

Tara has a professional background in industrial relations and human resource management and continues to consult for local farmers and businesses.

She is one of the drivers and the inaugural chairwoman of the newly formed Esperance Farm Office Management group (EFOM), a new sub-committee of SEPWA.

Tara said her motivation to nominate for the executive was secondary to the development of EFOM and to represent the



□ Newly elected Tara Vermeersch.

group and maintain strong relations between the committees.

"My contribution will no doubt be very different to any other committee members in the past because my agricultural experience is limited but I am passionate about continuous improvement and the professional development of the farm office manager," she said.

"This is an integral role to the success or otherwise of the enterprise.

"I'm hoping my professional background and skills will be valuable in increasing the profile and contribution of this office role.

"I know it is a novelty to be the first female on the executive but I don't want to place undue importance on my gender.

"My priority is to ensure I am a constructive contributor to the executive and that EFOM remains relevant and valuable."

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2013

May 13	EFOM meeting, end of tax year planning	DAFWA	Tara Vermeersch 0404 845 435
June 10	EFOM meeting, end of year requirements and BAS		
July 8	EFOM meeting, farm apps, social networking and farm maps		
August 9	SEPWA Ladies Day	Esperance	Niki Curtis 9083 1125
August 12	EFOM meeting, benchmarking and time management		
September 8	SEPWA Grower tour	Eastern States	Nigel Metz 9083 1115
September 9	EFOM meeting, occupational health and safety		
September 12	EDRS Field Day	EDRS - Gibson	Niki Curtis 9083 1125
October 14	EFOM LoadNet and Optimisation		
November 11	EFOM end of year re-cap and suggestions for 2014		

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