

Future Farm E-News

Newsletter of the Future Farm Industries CRC

August 2010

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From the CEO

Third Year Review

FFI CRC has been advised of the arrangements for our Third Year Review. It will be held on 16-18 February 2011 at the Perth Head Office.

The Review Panel will comprise:

- Mr Don Anderson (CRC Committee), Chair;
- Professor Don Marshall and Ted Lefroy (independent researchers); and
- Guy Roth and Richard Taylor (independent End-Users).

Preparations are well advanced with Amir Abad tasked with conducting the economic impact assessment and Agribusiness Director Scott Glyde outsourcing our monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements. Greg Lawrence and Sarah Colombera are currently putting together the 2009-10 Annual Report. The combination of these activities will generate the material necessary for the review.

Postgraduate conference brings students together



CRC PhD students Thomas Jackson, Claire Lewis and Serenity Hill enjoy a coffee break between sessions at the Postgraduate Professional Development Conference.

In mid August, Charles Sturt University's Wagga Wagga Campus was host to the CRC's 2010 Postgraduate Professional Development Conference. More than 30 students from around Australia converged on Charles Sturt University's scenic National Wine and Grape Industry Centre at Wagga Wagga over two days, from 17 to 19 August to talk about their research, and become more familiar with the CRC and each other.

On the first day, the students took to the lectern and gave presentations on the specifics of their research projects to an audience and a panel made up of FFI CRC board members academic and industry-based researchers and other people closely aligned to the CRC. After each presentation, panel members provided valuable feedback to the presenters.

Along with a forum on potential employment and further research opportunities, the conference provided students with a better understanding of CRC communications and the CRC weed risk policy, which included presentations by Communication Manager Greg Lawrence, and weed risk scientist, Christine Munday (WA Department of Environment and Conservation). Guest presentations by Prof. Tony Peacock (Invasive Animals CRC CEO) and Prof. Andy Pitman (Co-director of the University of New South Wales' Climate Change Research Centre) also gave students insights into the public perception risks associated with research and the expected impacts of climate change on south

Project leaders are also now busily finalising their two-page statements on progress and opportunities for the Focus 50 Workshop next week. With this coming on top of the regional symposium, I thank everyone involved for their hard work.

New Program 1 Leader



I'm really pleased to announce Dr Michael Friend (pictured left) as Program 1 Leader: Future Livestock Industries. Michael is from the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences at Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga.

Michael brings to this position his research experience in animal nutrition and his familiarity with *EverGraze*, having been a site leader for several years. I invite you to visit his CSU staff member [page](#) and find out more about Michael. He has hit the ground running on Friday 27 August attending the Victorian Regional Symposium. Welcome Michael!

New Oldman Saltbush Improvement Project Leader

Peter Jessop, NSW Industry and Investment Dareton, has stepped into project leader for the *Oldman Saltbush Improvement* project. He takes over from Ram Nair who recently departed SARDI for a new job in India.

Peter will work closely with Greg Sweeney (SARDI) and Hayley Norman (CSIRO) to coordinate saltbush field evaluations at Condobolin (NSW) Monarto (SA) and Tammin (WA).



Saltland Solutions course get the formula right



Team member Sam (Slim) Lehmann explains the potential saline land offers farmers at the recent Saltland Solutions Course.

In late July, *EverTrain* and the *Saltland Knowledge Exchange* projects held two highly successful Saltland Solutions courses in the WA Wheatbelt towns of Cranbrook and Woodanilling that focused on how to make saline land suitable for grazing.

The combination of hearing about the latest research results from leading CRC researchers, Dr Hayley Norman (CSIRO) and Dr Ed Barrett-Lennard (DAFWA), and seeing inspirational examples on local farms left no doubt in the minds of those who attended that saline land can provide significant productivity gains.

From the feedback received, the Saltland Solutions Team got the formula right when putting these courses together. They had great

eastern Australia, respectively.

CRC Agribusiness Director and Leader of Program 5: Agribusiness and Education, Dr Scott Glyde, said students have provided overwhelmingly positive feedback on how the review panels were conducted, including the detailed responses they received, and for how much they appreciated the opportunity to mix with industry and academics alike at the Conference.

Special thanks to Dr John Harper (CRC Education Manager) and Scott for their outstanding efforts in organising this well received event.



Native grasses the focus at *EverGraze*® Field Day



Native grass management will be the focus of an *EverGraze* Field Day at its Chiltern Proof Site, Victoria, on 2 September.

The day will feature presentations from researchers active at two *EverGraze* Proof Sites (Chiltern, Ms Meredith Mitchell and Dr Lysandra Slocombe; Holbrook, Dr Jim Virgona; and Orange, Dr Warwick Badgery). During these presentations, the researchers will talk about various aspects of their research including managing native pastures for a ewe-lamb production system through fertiliser application, grazing management and integration with improved pastures.

The day will also feature an interactive session by FFI CRC Victorian Adoption Manager, Kate Sargeant, on the economics of the using phosphorus fertiliser on native pastures as well as a series of hands-on workshops. These workshops will have a closer look at *EverGraze* tools for planning rotational grazing systems, show how to visually determine native pasture herbage mass and provide an update on the latest research into the native grass, *Microlaena*.

For more information or to RSVP, email [Lysandra Slocombe](#). To find out more about other *EverGraze* Open Days that are happening throughout September and October, go [here](#).

EverGraze® is a Future Farm Industries CRC, Meat and Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation research and delivery partnership.



GREENHOUSE 2011: the Science of Climate Change Conference abstracts wanted

The GREENHOUSE 2011 Conference Program Committee is currently seeking abstracts to address its conference themes of:

- Oceans
- Atmosphere
- Biosphere
- Climate modelling
- Climate change projections

host farmers, good nearby field sites and a realistic timeframe.

“These two day courses had the right narrative. They started with a half-day talk with a researcher and local farmer followed by an afternoon in the field – which helped participants gain a better feel for the principles mentioned earlier,” Ed said.

“The next day, there was a half-day field exercise where each participant put together their own saltland pasture plan as part of a competition. Once the entries were in, a deconstruction session took place where the organisers and presenters discussed and evaluated each plan.”

Course participants received a complimentary 'salt kit' to help them with practical on-farm decision making. The kit included a salinity and pH meter, a SALTdeck species identification guide, economics calculation resources and other useful items.

Saltland Solutions was presented by the Saltland Pastures Association together with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food and FFI CRC, with funding from the Commonwealth Government's Caring for Our Country Program.

For more information about Saltland Solutions courses tailored to your region, contact [Nick Edwards](#) (Saltland Knowledge Exchange Project Leader): Tel: (08) 8762 9184, Mob: 0427 012 810.



Seedlings and seeds in need of good homes



Saltbush and other native seedlings are available to WA wheatbelt farmers as part of the Caring For Our Country Wind Erosion Project.

The WEROC, NEWROC, SEAVROC NRM, Caring For Our Country Wind Erosion Project, which is using perennial-based farming systems to combat wind erosion, will be releasing application forms in September for farmers and other landowners wanting seedlings and seed for the 2011 planting season.

On offer are Oil Mallee, Swamp Sheoak, Saltbush, and Rhagodia seedlings and perennial pasture seed. If you would like to participate and are located within the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils (NEWROC), Wheatbelt East Regional Organisation of Councils (WEROC) or South East Avon Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (SEAVROC) of the Western Australian Wheatbelt, ring your local Shire Office and ask to speak to your local Natural Resource Management or Environmental Officer to get involved.

FFI CRC is currently conducting collaborative trials on the use of shrubs and woody perennials in the low and medium rainfall sites in the Central Wheatbelt of WA as part of the project.

For more information, contact Emma Wilson on (08) 9645 0236 or qshirecl@westnet.com.au, or visit the Project's [Facebook](#) page.



- Climate variability
- Extreme events and community resilience
- Pacific nations and climate change
- Impacts and adaptation
- Biodiversity
- Policy and economics.

Abstract submissions close 19 November 2010 and can be submitted online [here](#).

The Conference will be held at the Cairns Convention Centre, Queensland, on 4-8 April 2011. Registrations can be made on the GREENHOUSE 2010 Conference [website](#).



Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative launched

Launched earlier this month, the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI) is focused on gaining a better understanding of herbicide resistance in the broad-acre cropping regions of southern Australia.

Lead by Winthrop Professor, Stephen Powles, (UWA School of Plant Biology), AHRI's multidisciplinary team is set to tackle a variety of issues related to herbicide resistance in crops and weeds through research, development and extension activities aimed at maximising sustainable crop production.

For the next five years, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) will provide \$5.5 million to fund the AHRI Centre located at the UWA Faculty for Natural and Agricultural Science.

AHRI will work closely with the WA Department of Agriculture and Food, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (Queensland), the University of Melbourne and the University of Adelaide to better understand the impact of herbicide resistance and coordinate a national approach to resistance management across Australia.

For more inform about AHRI, visit: www.ahri.uwa.edu.au



Communications update

Logos and templates

Students and researchers wanting an FFI CRC logo or a CRC powerpoint presentation template for their talks or publications can download them [here](#). CRC poster templates can also be downloaded from the same webpage.

Twitter

FFI CRC now has a [Twitter](#) site that provides an alternative way to get the latest news from the CRC out to a wider audience.

Landline

ABC TV Landline program recently screened a story on the CRC's *Enrich* project which is investigating the opportunity for native shrubs to provide farmers in marginal areas with an additional source of feed along with other useful benefits.

Go [here](#) to watch the story.

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Coming Events...

EverGraze Chiltern Proof Site Field Day

2 September, Chiltern, Vic

Further information: [Lysandra Slocombe](mailto:Lysandra.Slocombe)

NFF National Congress

5-7 September, Melbourne, Vic

Further information: www.congress.nff.org.au

Focus 50 Workshop National

7 - 8 September, Perth, WA

Further information: barbara.williamson@futurefarmcrc.com.au

EverGraze Hamilton Proof Site Open Day

8 September, Hamilton, Vic

Further information: [Lisa McIntyre](mailto:Lisa.McIntyre)

Agriculture Outlook 2010

13 - 15 September, Sydney, NSW

Further information: www.terrapinn.com

Farming Ahead Conference

22-23 September, Sydney, NSW

Further information: debbie.boxall@kondinin.com.au

EverGraze Ararat Proof Site Open Day

5 October, Ararat, Vic

Further information: [Rob Shea](mailto:Rob.Shea)

Sheep CRC Conference

20-21 October, Adelaide, SA

Further information: www.sheepcrc.org.au

Forestry and Forest Science Conference

30 September - 2 October, Melbourne, Vic

Further information: www.forestscience.unimelb.edu.au/centenary/conference.html

New Rural Industries Australia: From Passion to Profit Conference

28-30 November, Gold Coast, Qld

Further information: www.nria.asnevents.com.au

ESA Biodiversity Conference

6-10 December, Canberra, ACT

Further information: www.esa2010.org.au

GREENHOUSE 2011: The Science of Climate Change

4-8 April 2011, Cairns, Qld

Further information: www.greenhouse2011.com

2011 Western Australian Natural Resources Management Conference

23-25 August 2011, Perth, WA

Further information: www.isde7.net

5th World Congress of Conservation Agriculture

26-29 September 2011, Brisbane, Qld

Further information: www.wcca2011.org

8th International Workshop on Sulfur Metabolism in Higher Plants

22-27 November 2011, Creswick, Vic

Further information: www.sulphyton.org

