



SANTFA
CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE IN ACTION

SANTFA ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
16th
2014
FRIDAY
FEBRUARY
21



Barossa Arts & Convention Centre
Magnolia Road, Tanunda



The 16th Annual SANTFA Conference offers a packed program of international and local speakers including Nuffield scholars and award-winning farmers. Topics include on-farm energy efficiency and fuel production, the latest developments in seeding technology, conservation of water in the paddock, alternative family farming models, nitrogen management and value-adding pulses – a blend that makes this an event not to be missed. In this International Year of Family Farming the

conference will also showcase several innovative farmers who have taken the next step to secure the future of their farms and families. The program has been designed by farmers for farmers, and the quality of the speakers and range of topics makes this definitely a conference not to be missed. Mark the date in your diary and register now to take advantage of the Early Bird rate and ensure your place at this important event and your access to the valuable information on offer.



VITERRA GLENCORE GRAIN SERAFIN GOLDACRES FARMOZ SHELBOURNE REYNOLDS BEST ENVIRONMENT TECHNOLOGIES AGRITRADING ACTA SENTEK AWB NAB

PROGRAM

- 8:15 – 8:45 Registration
- 8:45 – 8:50 Welcome:
Brad Moyle, SANTFA President
- 8:50 – 9:50 Paul Jasa, Extension Engineer
(University of Nebraska – Lincoln)
– Cultural practices for soil &
water conservation
- 9:50 – 10:15 Morning tea
- 10:15 – 11:05 Forum 1 (Choose A or B)
- A. Alternative land management
models – Peter & Nikki
Thompson & John Gladigau
- B. Crop nutrition – Rob Norton &
Greg Butler
- 11:05 – 11:10 Session changeover
- 11:10 – 12:10 Steven Hobbs (Vic) – Energy
efficiencies on farm
- 12:10 – 12:50 Lunch
- 12:50 – 1:40 Forum 2 (Choose A or B)
- A. Disc seeders – Craig Davis &
Paul Jasa
- B. Advanced tyne performance
– Andrew & David Parkinson
- 1:40 – 1:45 Session changeover
- 1:45 – 2:30 Lachie Seears (SA) – Value adding
to pulses
- 2:30 – 3:30 Grant Byrne (NSW) – Looking to
the future
- 3:30 – 3:55 Afternoon tea
- 3:55 – 4:40 Steve Lanyon (Vic) – My evolution
in farming
- 4:40 – 4:50 Steven Hobbs (Vic) – Biodiesel
demonstration
- 4:50 – 5:00 Closing comments:
Brad Moyle, SANTFA President
- 5:10 – 6:00 Drinks & field demonstrations of
biochar & biodiesel manufacturing

Family and function

With 2014 the International Year of Family Farming, this year's conference has a strong focus on options being explored by innovative farmers to ensure their family businesses are profitable, robust and sustainable into the future.

There is also a strong practical element, with US agricultural engineer Paul Jasa discussing a whole-farm system approach to no-till production and aspects of no-till technology and methods, plus sessions from interstate and local speakers on disc and tyne seeding options, crop nutrition and pulse production and marketing.

- **PAUL JASA**, an Extension Engineer at the University of
- Nebraska-Lincoln, has a Masters in Agricultural Engineering
- and has been working with planting equipment and tillage
- system evaluation since 1978.

He is considered one of the best sources of information on no-till planting equipment and system management in the Midwest of America, and with 35 years in no-till research and extension, claims he has made or seen every mistake to be made with no-till. More importantly, he has learned from those mistakes and will share some of that knowledge, including tips on how to improve crop and emergence uniformity, with conference delegates.

Paul is particularly interested in how to use no-till systems to improve the profitability of crop production while building soil health and reducing adverse impacts on the environment, and the cultural practices that make those objectives achievable.

Using continuous no-till and building a healthier soil with more organic matter can store more soil moisture, he says, but growers need to manage their crops to make efficient use of water when it is available and, in some cases, intensify their cropping system to use the water that no-till saves and may otherwise be lost.

As an engineer Paul has a close interest in machinery and suggests growers can evaluate the performance of their seeding machinery based on how it handles crop residue, penetrates the soil and closes the seed 'V' to establish seed-to-soil contact, then use the results of that evaluation to make adjustments or changes necessary to make no-till successful.

He will also look at common machinery attachments, how they can improve performance and the process involved in deciding whether or not to add an attachment and whether adding it will change other aspects of the seeding equipment's performance.

- **STEVEN HOBBS**, will draw on findings from his Nuffield
- scholarship study of on-farm energy requirements on the
- family farm in the Wimmera for his presentation on on-farm
- energy use.

He will discuss on-farm energy use with a focus on energy efficiency and the economics and practicalities of on-farm energy production.

Steven, who produces bio-diesel on-farm from his own mustard and canola crops, will also outline his experiences around on-farm biodiesel production and findings from research aimed at increasing on-farm energy efficiency.

Energy is the biggest single farm cost, he says, and agriculture has to source energy from affordable sources if food production is to be sustainable. Growing your own energy could be the way forward.

“People don’t stop to think that everything we grow on the farm is a source of energy; even the grain we sell for food. It’s time we thought about harnessing that untapped energy and getting better value out of it”.

- **LACHIE SEEARS** will outline what happens to Australian pulses once they leave the farm gate, how they are regarded internationally and what buyers do to turn the commodities produced by Australian growers into consumable products.

He will also point to what is needed to improve the market performance of Australian pulses.

Lachie’s presentation will be based on insights from his recently-completed Nuffield scholarship in which he researched the pulse processing supply chain and potential value-adding opportunities for the Australian pulse industry.

As part of his Nuffield research Lachie, who farms in the South East, spent time with consumers in Egypt to see how they use faba and broad beans, and with industry leaders in Canada, where he focused on what the industry there is doing to value-add their pulse production.

He also met with pulse brokers and processors in several countries to gain an understanding of these elements of the supply chain; particularly how their businesses are set up and what is involved in buying and re-selling Australian pulses.

- NSW farmer **GRANT BYRNE** will discuss why he and his family farm, why they farm the way they do and his vision for the future of his family in farming.

Grant, who has been cropping in the central west of NSW for 30 years, prides himself on adapting and developing technologies and techniques to create an integrated system that is able to reach its full potential.

Over the past 20 years he and his family have transformed their production system from a mixed farm with a heavy reliance on sheep and some full-disturbance cropping to a 4,000 ha controlled-traffic continuous cropping system.

The family, who won the NSW Excellence in agriculture award in 2010 and were named CANFA’s Conservation farmer of the year in 2011, place high value on adapting and developing technologies and techniques to create a favourable environment in which each element works with and complements the others so the entire system is able to reach its full potential.

They also have a long history of manufacturing equipment to suit their specific needs, with a 40-metre self-propelled boom spray with a 6,000-litre tank built on a cotton picker a good example of their innovation and engineering skills.

- The latest step in the farming evolution of Victorian grower **STEVE LANYON**, a sixth-generation Mallee farmer, has been a move into irrigated summer cropping. This follows earlier transitions from conventional ‘full tillage’ cropping to no till and later to a controlled traffic system.

Steve will draw on experiences from his ‘evolution in farming’ to highlight critical aspects of modern farming systems and the importance of risk management through diversification.

He will also discuss the impact of seeding accuracy on crop performance and the significance and impact of row spacing.

His presentation will also explore aspects of his experiences around co-ordinating summer and winter cropping and dryland and irrigated production systems.

- Queensland producers **PETER AND NIKKI THOMPSON** and Mallee farmer and businessman **JOHN GLADIGAU** will explore alternative farm ownership and business models.

Peter and Nikki are partners in Soil2Soul, an ‘ethical business’ that supports the concept of Conscious Capitalism, in which land ownership is separated from the business of food and energy production.

The Soil2Soul model separates the business of food and energy production from land ownership, which is funded by investors. This frees the farm managers to develop and operate the property without the burden of high capital debt, a major stress on many family farms and an impediment to improving optimisation and sustainability of family farms.

Profits are divided between the operating entity and the urban investors.

Peter and Nikki will explain why they see a need for such a model, which they believe can play a role in creating a vibrant new future for agriculture in Australia, and outline their experiences with Soil2Soul and the positives and pitfalls encountered during its development.

John Gladigau, a 2006 Nuffield scholar, farms at Alawoona, in the Murray Mallee, where he and his wife Bronwyn are partners in ‘Bulla Burra’, a collaborative farming venture formed in conjunction with another local farming family.

John is also principal of Collaborative Farming Australia, a privately owned company established to help farmers form Collaborative Farming Ventures; a concept that opens the way for combination of assets, infrastructure and skills of two or more farming businesses into an integrated collaborative enterprise.

He believes the collaborative farming model can build the scale of family farming to improve the long-term profitability and sustainability of the agricultural sector while retaining the integrity and heritage of family farms and the fabric of local communities.

John will highlight the benefits and challenges of collaboration models, his experiences in the development of Bulla Burra and his role with Collaborative Farming Australia.

- **ROB NORTON** and **GREG BUTLER** will address aspects of nitrogen nutrition with Rob, Regional Director for the International Plant Nutrition Institute, focusing on how to make the best decisions about nitrogen source, rate, timing and placement. Greg, SANTFA R&D Manager, will discuss the concept of distributed nitrogen production, the outcomes from tests of high-pressure UAN injection and the latest information around targeted use of biochar.

- **CRAIG DAVIS**, senior agronomist with AW Vater & Co, and **PAUL JASA** will look at how growers and their agronomists can tackle the challenges facing growers considering a shift from tyne to disc seeding.

- Agronomist **ANDREW PARKINSON** and his farmer brother **DAVID PARKINSON** will explore how to get the best results from tyne seeders, with a focus on tyne and boot design, seeder configuration and seeder and tyne set-up to achieve the best crop emergence and performance in the prevailing farm and paddock conditions.

REGISTRATION FORM

TAX INVOICE ABN: 85 250 602 181

Please keep a copy of this form for your records. A receipt will be forwarded only on request.

SANTFA Member (name) _____

Please list names of attendees below, including registering member.

Attendee 1 _____

Attendee 2 _____

Attendee 3 _____

Attendee 4 _____

Note: No refunds, but transfers permitted.

Forum selections

Please circle one selection per person (A or B) for each Forum session.

Attendee 1 Forum 1 A B Forum 2 A B

Attendee 2 Forum 1 A B Forum 2 A B

Attendee 3 Forum 1 A B Forum 2 A B

Attendee 4 Forum 1 A B Forum 2 A B

Registration & payment details

Note the pre-conference BBQ buffet at the Weintal Hotel/Motel at 6.00 pm on Thursday, February 20.

Please insert the relevant number of registrations in each box

	Cost	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Member, family & employee registration(s)	\$175	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member registration(s)* (*Includes cost of SANTFA membership 2014/2015)	\$340	_____
Sub-total	\$	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Bird rebate – save \$30 (subtract \$30 for each registration paid before Feb 7)		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Late Rate – \$15 extra (add \$15 for each registration paid after Feb 14)		_____
Pre-conference buffet	\$30	_____
Total payment due	\$	_____

Payment method

- Cheque** (make payable to SANTFA)
- EFT** (use your surname as a reference)
BSB: 105 030 Acc no: 043 080 540 Acc name: SA No-tillage farmers
- Credit card** VISA Mastercard

Name on credit card _____ Expiry Date ____/____

Card Number

Total Amount \$ _____ Signature _____

Please complete the above information and post or fax registration and payment to SANTFA, PO Box 923, Clare, SA 5453 or fax (08) 8842 1875.

For further enquiries contact Leighton Pearce at SANTFA on 0427 688 028 or admin@santfa.com.au



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