



Upper North Farming Systems  
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# Upper North Farming Systems

April 28, 2022

## **UNF 216G – Improving soil health to maximize WUE in the Upper North**

On Thursday the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2016 the UNFS gathered for a full day Expo on “Productive Soils and Solutions for a Profitable Season”. The main focus of the day was on soils and modifications to the system that would result in higher productivity and profitability within a water limited environment.

94 members and industry partners gathered at the Booleroo Centre Institute Hall and visited 2 paddock soil pits on the outskirts of town. In addition to this 12 students from the Senior Ag Classes at Booleroo Centre School joined the event for the morning. The students attended a soil pit session and returned to the hall for 2 presentations from Anne Brown, Greening Australia on profitable and sustainable grazing practices for Native Pastures and from Nigel Wilhelm on Crop Nutrition. This is the first time we’ve been able to actively engage the School Ag Classes and we are excited that we will be able to involve them in our events in the future.

Prior to the event advertising included, a media release to all news organisations in the district which resulted in articles in the Plains Producer, Flinders News, Jamestown Journal and on the ABC Radio. The ABC Rural Reporter had planned to attend the event but was unfortunately held up elsewhere. All UNFS members were notified through the UNFS Update and the event was widely cast on social media, through both Facebook and Twitter. In all advertising SAGIT sponsorship of the event, with other major sponsors, was acknowledged.

Below is the program for the day:





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# Upper North Farming Systems 2016 Members Expo Program



## *Productive Soils & Solutions for a Profitable Season*



Thursday 4th of August, Booleroo Centre Institute Hall, 9am to 5pm.

*Improving soil health leads to improved WUE and reduced impacts of a dry spring.*

Registration from 8.30am. AGM - 12.15. Networking Event 4.30PM

- **9.00** Welcome - Barry Mudge
- **9.25** Maximising your soil productivity - Soil Pits - Michael Eyres and Edward Scott, Injekta Field Systems - two sites.
- **11.05** Morning Tea
- **11.25** Launch of Website, Strategic Plan & Stubble Initiative Guidelines - Ruth Sommerville
- **11.35** Micro and Macro Nutrients - What do they do and what does your crop need: Nigel Wilhelm, SARDI.
- **12.15** UNFS AGM
- **12.30** Lunch - *Supplied by Rabobank*
- **1.25** Russian Wheat Aphid Update- Andrew Gilmore and Patrick Redden
- **1.40** Planning for a Variable Spring: Models for Production - Farmer and Advisor Discussion Panel
- **2.15** *Front Room*: Crop Physiology - Grain fill and the effect of heat shock on yield. Paul Telfor, AGT
- **2.15** *Main Hall*: Maximising Lamb Growth Rates - Daniel Schuppan, Landmark Jamestown
- **3.00** Afternoon Tea
- **3.20** Nutrition and Business Risk - How to get it right, Kate Burke, Think Agri, Echuca (Vic)
- **4.30** Networking - *Sponsor Northern Ag*



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Feedback from the day was very positive. An outcome from the event has been extensive conversation and engagement of consultants within the region to investigate nutrition and soil limiting factors. This has resulted in the UNFS Operations Committee applying for further SAGIT funding, this time a research grant, to investigate soil types in the Upper North with higher probabilities of nutrient deficiencies or tie-up and investigate amelioration and application options to alleviate these micro-nutrient deficiencies.

A full financial report can be provided, however total presenter costs on the day equaled \$2939. Additional project funds and sponsorship covered the costs of four of the presenters. The remaining funds were used to contribute to the cost of the hall hire.

Also attached to this email are the media releases that were distributed, the advertising flier and a few photos of the event.

