



25 YEARS
1991-2016

FAST FACTS

THE DATES:

Start: September 2016

Finish: March 2017

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS:

SANTFA: Leighton Pearce.

THE PROBLEM:

The annual SANTFA conference provides extension on conservation farming topics to South Australian growers.

THE RESEARCH:

What was done?

SAGIT RESEARCH SUMMARY

SANF116: 19th Annual SANTFA conference

IN A NUTSHELL

The 19th Annual SANTFA conference was held on Friday 24 February at Tanunda. The theme of the conference was soil health, focusing on practical information with respect to implementing cover cropping on farm and addressing soil health concerns.

Speakers from interstate and overseas headlined the conference, including leading US farmers John Heermann and Rick Bieber, Australian Farmer of the Year Grant Sims and Ben Beck from Wagga Wagga. Survey results indicated that the conference was one of most successful and informative conferences in recent times.

BACKGROUND

The South Australian No-Till Farmers Association (SANTFA) is a non-profit farmer driven organisation working to increase the area of no-till farming and to attract new supporters to conservation farming. The association holds an annual conference to provide growers with information and tools to improve their farming operations.

RESEARCH AIMS

The objective of the project was to hold the SANTFA annual conference with the theme of soil health. Specific targets were 200 attendees at the conference and at least 20 per cent of new farmers attending the conference for the first time.

IN THE FIELD

The four headlining speakers discussed their experiences with establishing and managing regenerative agricultural systems and what can be achieved from working with nature to enhance soil health, vitality and productivity.

All four are farming in low-moisture environments and using minimum or zero tillage systems, diverse rotations, cover crops and cattle. The two Australian speakers also use controlled traffic systems and one aims to avoid all chemical inputs including chemical fertilisers, which he has replaced with a fermented biological product.

The conference was promoted widely leading up to the conference through SANTFA's social media: Twitter (2330 followers) and Facebook (960 likes), as well as direct SMS and emails to the membership database (more than 450 members). The ABC Country Hour also promoted and broadcast from the conference along with promotion through the SANTFA website and quarterly journal, "The Cutting Edge".

RESULTS

The conference attracted 150 participants, with 23 per cent attending for the first time, and survey results indicated that the conference was one of most successful and informative conferences in recent times.

VALUE FOR GROWERS

The 2017 SANTFA Annual conference was successful, with very positive feedback given via the survey conducted, despite lower than anticipated numbers. A higher than expected number of first timers attend the conference to learn about soil regeneration.

Each speaker's session was audio recorded and the recordings are available through SANTFA's podcasting channel "Radio SANTFA" through iTunes. From the conference, several articles have been written and included in the latest edition of SANTFA's quarterly journal, "The Cutting Edge". Several news items were also created and published in the Stock Journal (SA) and Weekly Times (Vic).

MORE INFORMATION:

Leighton Pearce, SANTFA

T: 0427688028

E: Leighton@santfa.com.au



25 YEARS
1991-2016



Participants at the conference

SAGIT DISCLAIMER

Any recommendations, suggestions or opinions contained in this communication do not necessarily represent the policy or views of the South Australian Grain Industry Trust (SAGIT). No person should act on the basis of the contents of this communication without first obtaining specific, independent, professional advice. The Trust and contributors to this communication may identify products by proprietary or trade names to help readers identify particular types of products. We do not endorse or recommend the products of any manufacturer referred to. Other products may perform as well as or better than those specifically referred to. SAGIT will not be liable for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or arising by reason of any person using or relying on the information in this communication.

CAUTION: RESEARCH ON UNREGISTERED AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS USE. Any research with unregistered pesticides or of unregistered products reported in this communication does not constitute a recommendation for that particular use by the authors or the author's organisations. All pesticide applications must accord with the currently registered label for that particular pesticide, crop, pest and region. Copyright © All material published in this communication is copyright protected and may not be reproduced in any form without written permission from SAGIT