



FAST FACTS

EVENT DATE:

4 August 2016

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS:

Upper North Farming Systems: Ruth Sommerville.

THE PROBLEM:

Extension was required on the ways soil health can improve productivity in water-limited environments.

THE RESEARCH:

A full-day expo was held in Booleroo Centre including a range of presentations and a visit to soil pits.

SAGIT RESEARCH SUMMARY

UNF216G: Improving soil health to maximize WUE in the Upper North

IN A NUTSHELL

Upper North Farming Systems held an annual expo focusing on improving soil health to maximise profits in a water-limited environment. The day featured visits to soil pits and a range of speakers at Booleroo Centre. About 95 participants attended the day, as well as 12 senior students from Booleroo Centre School.

BACKGROUND

The Upper North Farming Systems (UNFS) Group conducts research trials and provides extension and networking opportunities for farmers, agronomists, researchers and primary industry in the Upper North region of South Australia.

RESEARCH AIMS

The objective of the project was to hold the annual UNFS expo to improve growers' skills and

IN THE FIELD

The UNFS held the Productive soils and solutions for a profitable season full-day expo on 4 August 2016, at the Booleroo Centre Institute Hall including a visit to two soil pits in paddocks on the outskirts of Booleroo Centre.

The 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.

Topics included micro and macro nutrients, Russian Wheat Aphid, planning for a variable spring, crop physiology and the effect of heat shock on yield, maximising lamb growth rates, and nutrition and business risk.

Pre-event promotion 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.

RESULTS

About 95 people attended the expo, with an additional 12 senior students from Booleroo Centre School participating in the morning session.

Feedback from the day was very positive.

VALUE FOR GROWERS

The participants at the expo learnt to manage their soil management to improve profitability. A secondary outcome was discussion between presenters and UNFS on the day which has led to a new SAGIT-funded project 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 micronutrient deficiencies (Increasing the knowledge and understanding of Micronutrient Deficiency in the UN).

MORE INFORMATION:

Hannah Mikajlo, UNFS

T: 0449 676 024

E: projects@unfs.com.au



The expo featured soil pit inspections with Injekta's Ed Scott

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