



SAGIT RESEARCH SUMMARY

SAN317: SANTFA Conference 2019

IN A NUTSHELL

The 21st Annual SANTFA Conference was held at the Barossa Arts and Convention Centre in Tanunda on Friday, 1 March, 2019.

The lineup of speakers comprised farmers, scientists, agronomists and researchers, including United States soil scientist Dwayne Beck, Thomas foods International chief executive officer Darren Thomas, NSW continuous cropper David Ricardo, Rural Directions agribusiness consultant Simon Vogt, Mid North farmer Jarred Tilley, SANTFA research and development director Greg Butler and West Coast farmer Michael Hancock.

FAST FACTS

THE DATES:

Event Date: February 2019

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS:

SANTFA: Leighton Pearce

THE PROBLEM:

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

THE RESEARCH:

SANTFA has held their annual conference each year from 2015 to 2019.

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 core objectives of the project were to:

- Successfully hold the SANTFA annual conference
- Have a minimum of 150 delegates attend the conference
- Provide conference audio throughout the rest of the season

IN THE FIELD

The 2019 conference had a range of different subject matters including:

- understanding the natural ecosystems which exist on farm
- the profitable integration of cropping and livestock
- using benchmarking as a basis for decision making
- drawing parallels between global businesses and farming enterprises
- the use of digital technologies on-farm
- succession in farming businesses
- mental health issues for farmers
- research and development updates within SANTFA

Despite the number of conference attendees declining from 138 to 114, the SANTFA board sees this as a reflection of the times with farmers being busier and more groups vying for their attention and attendance at events.

RESULTS

Very positive feedback was received by the SANTFA board from those who attended the event, with it concluded that the information presented was valued.

Audio from the conference is being released on the SANTFA podcasting channel Radio SANTFA throughout the season and will be available to growers.



The speaker panel at the event

VALUE FOR GROWERS

The conference provided attendees with a vast array of information on topics including use of digital technology on-farm, succession planning, benchmarking, natural on-farm ecosystems, getting the enterprise mix right, SANTFA research and development and mental health.

The conference also provided participants with great networking opportunities on the day itself, at the pre-conference dinner and on the post-conference farm tour.

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

MORE INFORMATION:

Leighton Pearce, SANTFA

M: 0427 688 028

E: leighton@santfa.com.au