

Grassroots agronomy workshops for women

Project summary

Fourteen Lameroo farming women gained a better insight into what it takes to get crops through to harvest after attending the grass roots agronomy for women in farm business series workshops. This project is supported by Agrilink Agricultural Consulting and the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

What has happened?

Two workshops and two field trips provided participants the opportunity to work with the consultant, and find out about production and factors influencing the current season.

Topics covered included;

Nitrogen budgeting workshop;

- role of nitrogen in plant growth and nitrogen budgeting
- importance of understanding available soil water for crop type when making decisions about nitrogen application
- soil moisture probe information and yield prophet, two tools capable of helping farmers make decisions around seasonal nitrogen requirements.

Pest ID workshop – SARDI Entomology guest presenters, Judy Bellati, and Helen De Graaf talked about;

- crop pest identification
- grain storage insects
- integrated pest management
- course of action to take should an infestation take place.

Bulla Burra field trip – participants engaged with owners of a collaborative farming enterprise and

discussed scale and improved business operation efficiencies. University of SA, Professor Barbara Pocock provided insight into the demands of modern rural women and what effects these demands have on communities.

Spring crop walk – participants looked at frost damage within crops and conducting yield estimates prior to crop maturity. Information gained from previous sessions was able to be utilised on this crop walk. A wrap up of the previous season was given and a learning guide for future crop monitoring provided to each participants.

Louise Flohr talked about the importance of encouraging participants to continue their agronomic learning spending time in the field using the new skills they developed.



Agronomy workshop participants undertaking crop inspection

This project is jointly funded through the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board and Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

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