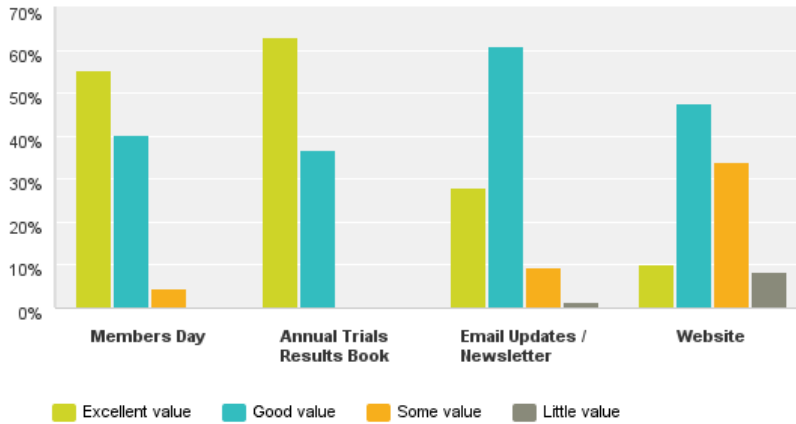


EPARF MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Q1 Services most valued from membership of EPARF

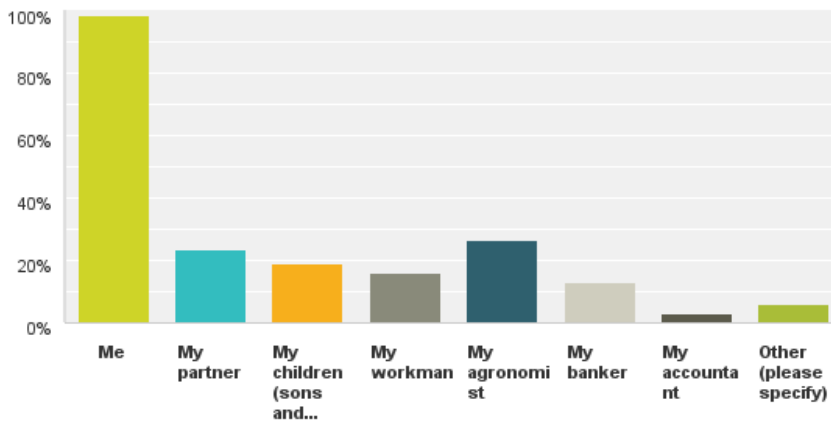
Answered: 68 Skipped: 0



The annual trials, which is sponsored by EPARF but produced by SARDI, was considered the most valuable service provided by EPARF. The EPARF member day was also highly valued. The e-news was less valued however this most probably relates to the regularity of this service. The e-news and the web site should increase in value to members as the new website and its notification features become more active (Q1). This was reflected in some of the comments provided, "I don't think I have looked on web site; haven't looked at the website to comment; don't really visit it".

Q2 Farm business partners who take part in EPARF activities and utilise EPARF products

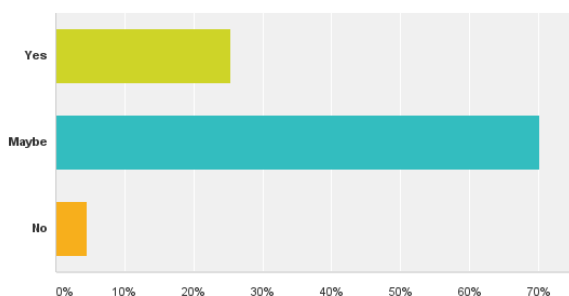
Answered: 68 Skipped: 0



EPARF members utilize EPARF services almost exclusively for their own use, with a spread of others who benefit from the membership, including agronomists, other family members, workmen and member's bankers (Q2).

Q3 Would members consider paying a higher annual membership fee if EPARF expanded its activities and influence?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 1

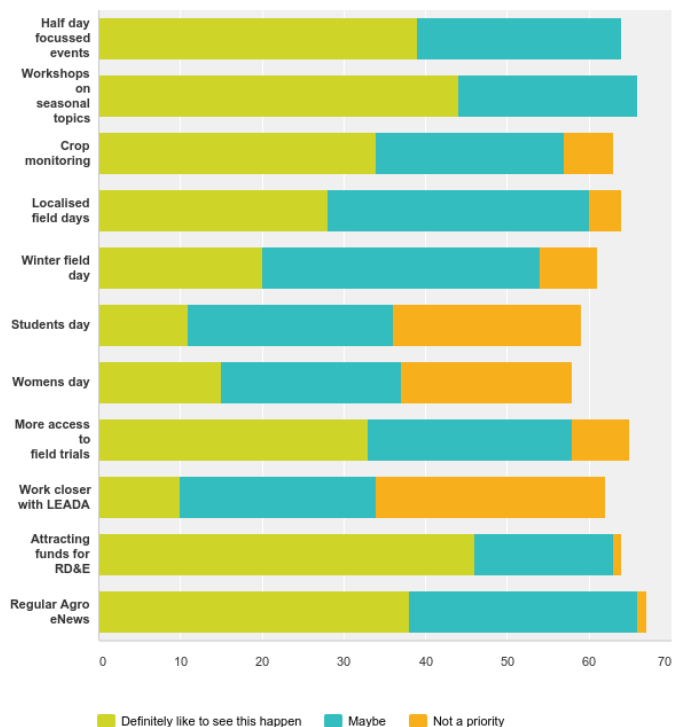


There was a strong indication that EPARF members would be prepared to pay higher membership fees if the services provided by EPARF were expanded (Q3). This was dependent on the types of services being offered, as expressed in the comments, “depending on which direction it expanded; depends on the activities offered; not sure what you mean by expanded influence; this would be dependent on the expansion; depends what is done; if I saw value in it”. One respondent commented that, “With the amount we pay in grain levies and the research information they provide, EPARF would need to find non-competing services that represent good value for money to justify a higher fee”.

Some of the additional services that EPARF could support include a regular agronomic newsletter, workshops on seasonal topics and half day focused events, and having a greater focus on attracting RD&E funding to the region (Q4).

Q4 Additional roles members would you like to see EPARF play in supporting agricultural research and extension on the EP

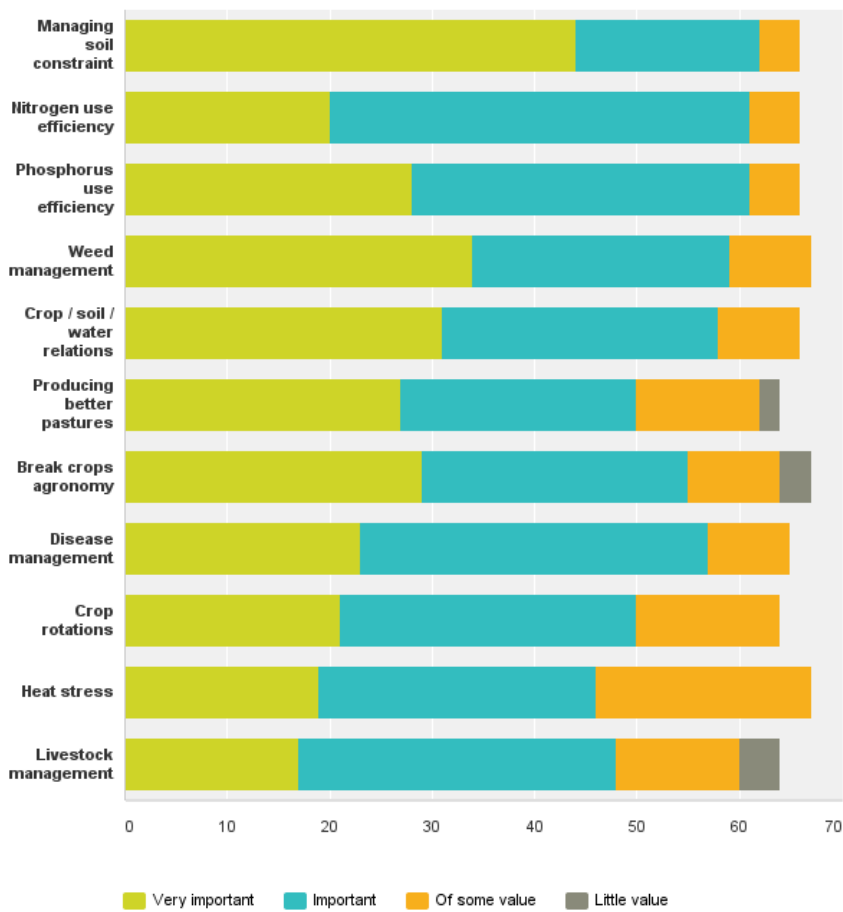
Answered: 67 Skipped: 1



Comments on this question included, “Need to be proactive on things such as attracting funds for research, but think need to be careful not to take on too much of the other stuff. Perhaps focus on doing one or two other ideas where there is passion. I'm not against any of the ideas above but sounds like a job PIRSA should be funding someone to do; timing of events needs thought. An afternoon session followed by drinks etc is no good when you have a 150km drive home”.

Q5 Farming systems issues members would like to be addressed on the EP

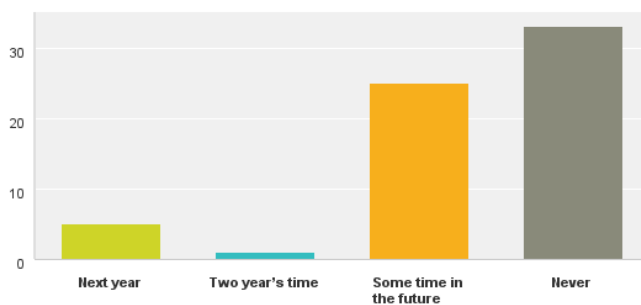
Answered: 67 Skipped: 1



Managing soil constraints was rated by members as their highest research priority (Q5). Other high priority issues included weed management, soil/ water/ crop relationships and break crops agronomy. One respondent commented that, “all are important but the ones I've said that are very important are the areas where I think could have high pay-off for \$ researched”. Other areas of research identified were, “frost; opportunistic summer crops to provide cover on sand and make N; structured financial Management training for young and older farmers; barley grass control; snail control; low potassium levels in tissue test even with reasonable soil levels.

Q6 Nominate for EPARF board

Answered: 64 Skipped: 4

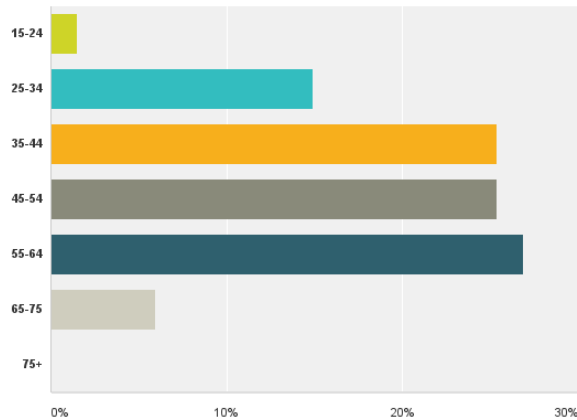


Attracting new Board members is critical to the ongoing functions of EPARF. Without a strong, industry representative Board the effectiveness and relevance of EPARF will diminish. There was a positive response to members willing to consider to be Board members in the short and longer term (Q6).

The next questions help to define EPARF's membership base.

Q7 Age profile of EPARF members

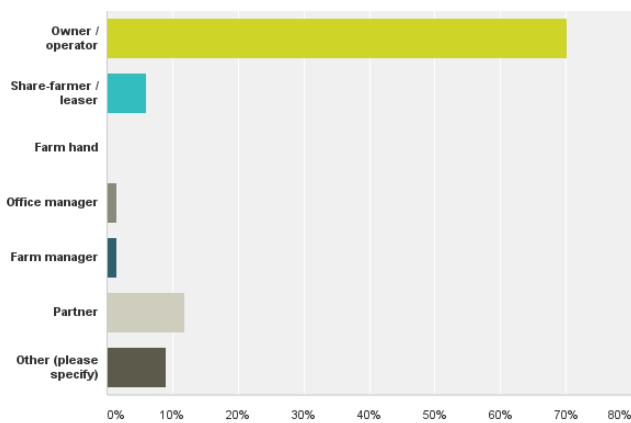
Answered: 67 Skipped: 1



There was a good spread of age ranges responding to the survey. 42% were under 45 years old, 25% in the 45-54 range and 27% in the 55-64 range (Q7).

Q8 Main position of members in the farm business

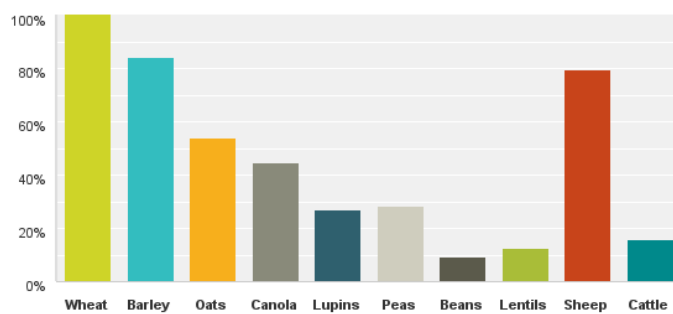
Answered: 67 Skipped: 1



70% of the survey respondents are made up of owner / operators of farming businesses on the Eyre Peninsula. Less than 10% of respondents did not have any connection operating a farm business (Q8).

Q9 Farm enterprise mix of EPARF members

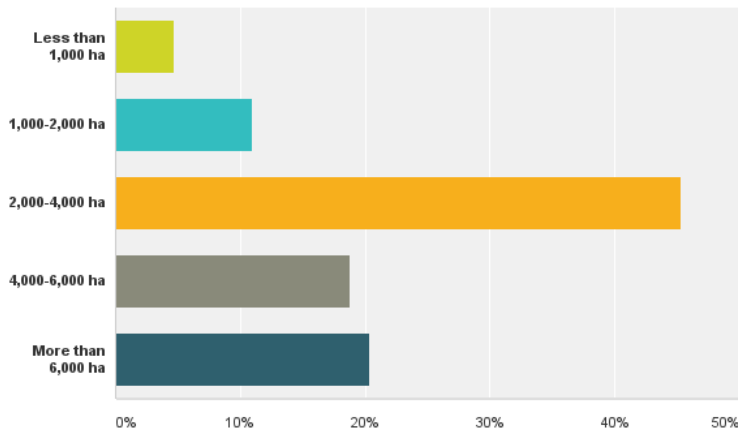
Answered: 63 Skipped: 5



The main enterprise mix of the respondents were wheat, barley and sheep production, in that order of significance. 45% of respondents are growing canola whilst slightly less than 30% have a grain legume in their farming system (Q9).

Q10 Area of land managed by EPARF members

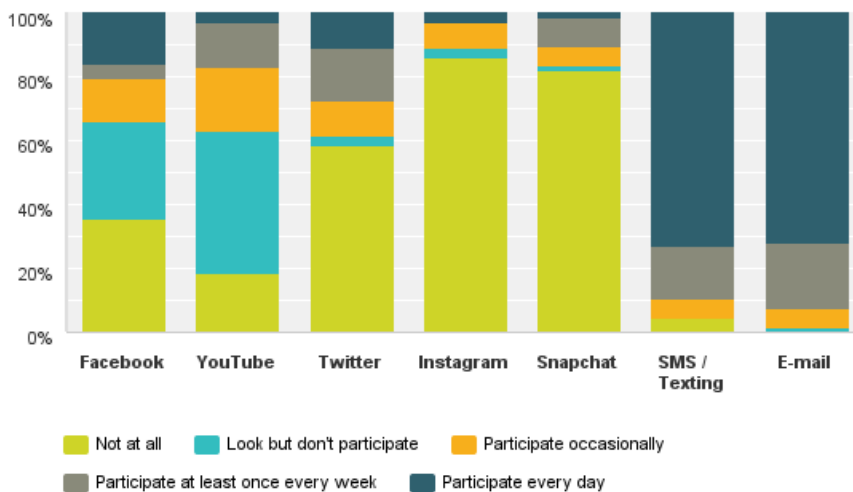
Answered: 64 Skipped: 4



45% of respondents farmed between 2,000 and 4,000 hectares, 18% between 4,000 and 6,000 hectares, whilst 20% farmed more than 6,000 hectares (Q10).

Q11 EPARF members use of social media platforms

Answered: 68 Skipped: 0



The most common forms of electronic communications used by respondents were SMS texting and e-mail. Of the social platforms, Facebook was the most commonly used / viewed, however participation rates were relatively low for all the platforms. You Tube was used by 80% of participants. One respondent commented, “face to face the old fashion way – hear, feel, see the person”.

Further Comments

Feedback was positive about the role of Minnipa and the work of EPARF:

- *Keep on keeping on. A very important function on EP and the industry as a whole.*
- *Keep up the good work. Sometimes less is more - do what you can do well with the resources available.*
- *You do a very good job.*
- *The relevance of the EPARF and the research centre is more important to farmers now than any time in my farming career.*
- *The board does a great job of ensuring Upper EP farmers are Progressing. Keep up the good work.*
- *Keep up the good work.*
- *All involved do a fantastic job.*
- *Excellent member's days, a highlight EPARF can be proud of.*
- *Keep up the good work and being proactive.*
- *Doing good job for us all*

There were some suggestions for future research:

- *Managing frost. Making good hay. Livestock rations.*
- *Increasing summer rain patterns create opportunities for summer legume crops. Could they help provide cover on sands, fix N, and maybe livestock food source. I'd really like to try this but don't know where to start.*

There were suggestions for running field day events:

- *There are many field day topics that would be useful, but it is becoming difficult to actually fit in time to attend them.*
- *Be careful not to fill up the calendar too much.*
- *Livestock day not cropping.*
- *Provide childcare especially at the members day, this is the day that wives/partners are more likely to attend and it is very difficult to attend with children due to the technical nature of these days.*

There were also suggestions on where EPARF should be focusing its attention:

- *I would encourage EPARF to do some strategic thinking and planning about what they would do if there was a directive to close/sell MAC.*
- *Lobby GRDC and State Gov to provide a greater share of the funding come to EP, rather than the dribbles down the chain we get at the moment...It needs to be fairer as EP grows significant amounts of grain.*
- *Continue supporting Minnipa. Essential to have a scientific leader position and extension agronomist at Minnipa to be relevant to farmers.*