



“A grower group that specifically addresses issues and finds solutions to improve farming systems in your area”

LEADA’s 2017 achievements and 2018 focus

LEADA wound up the delivery of the GRDC stubble management and NLP Soil Acidity projects and continued working on other smaller projects funded by a range of partners.

Through the stubble management project LEADA hosted two workshops and their annual crop walk through 2018. The workshops were based around work carried out through the stubble management project, one being the annual Expo “Harvest Weed Seed Management Expo” which included a site visit to Billy Pedler’s property for a paddock and harvester (chaff decks) inspection. In June a post-seeding workshop was held in conjunction with GRDC, this included up to date information on Managing weeds in a retained stubble system, managing pests and resistance management and a revisit to Billy Pedler’s property for a paddock and seeding inspection. In August LEADA held a Pulse workshop and Cropwalk which concentrated on Pulse breeding and marketing with visits to sites at Yeelanna and Marble Range with a look at different pasture options at Wanilla.

The conclusion of the NLP ‘Managing Soil Acidity on Lower EP’ was achieved with the completion of pH mapping of a total of 1,000 ha and production of best practice guidelines for management of low pH soils. Two case studies were produced from farmer experience and paddock data. This information provides farmers with locally relevant information to support their decision making around cost effectively improving soil condition and productive capacity by addressing soil acidity on their property.

LEADA reviewed the sites for the second year of the SAGIT grant looking at Copper Management for the Future. New sites were chosen and the results have been very positive. The project explores different management strategies to overcome copper deficiency in cereals, comparing the effectiveness of copper sulphate and copper chelate applied either as liquids banded at seeding or as a foliar spray.

LEADA will continue to deliver the GRDC funded project establishing and running nine ‘pulse check’ groups across the Southern Region of Australia and LEADA is facilitating the lower Eyre Peninsula group learning / discussion and practical field sessions that focus on ‘back to basics’ lentil and/or chickpea production. The delivery of the ‘Pulse check’ discussion group on lower Eyre Peninsula has been conducted by George Pedler with 4 being held in 2018 and a further 4 to be held in 2019.

In 2019 LEADA will be involved with the NLP Smart Farming Partnership initiative and the ‘Warm and cool season mixed cover cropping for sustainable farming systems in south eastern Australia’, with LEADA involved in two Cover Crop demonstration trials and one plant species screening trial. ‘Increasing production on sandy soils in low and medium rainfall areas of the Southern Region’ is another GRDC project that LEADA will be involved in for the next three years. LEADA has applied for NLP Smart Farms Small Grant for ‘Increasing adoption of new techniques combining physical, chemical and plant based interventions to improve soil function on Eyre Peninsula’.

As always, links with GRDC, the Australian Government, Rural Solutions SA, SARDI, EPARF and the Eyre Peninsula NRM Board continue to be critical to the ongoing success of LEADA.

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