

Industry update

Vol. 1 No.5



4
Contracted
project



\$8,000
RD&E
Investment
July -
September
2019



\$2.1M
Total RD&E
investment
committed
from 1 October
2019 onwards

AgriFutures™ Export Fodder Program Advisory Panel

- Peter Baker (Chair)
- Sean Blechynden
- Pat Guerin
- Andrew Hayward
- Steve Woods
- Munro Patchett
- Lucinda Staley (AgriFutures Australia Manager, Research)

AgriFutures Australia is committed to working with industry to deliver research and development outcomes. We work in partnership with advisory panels to decide on research priorities and to make investment decisions that are guided by the RD&E objectives outlined in the five-year plans.

Applications Open

AgriFutures Australia is seeking applications from individuals representing export companies, who have a passion for/interest in research, development and extension (RD&E), to fill two panel member positions within the AgriFutures™ Export Fodder Program Advisory Panel.

Submissions close Thursday, 21 November 2019 at 12 Noon AEDT.

To apply agrifutures.com.au/export-fodder

Koorabup oats to open areas to hay production in WA

A new oats variety with improved disease resistance is set to open up new areas to hay production in WA. The new variety, called Koorabup – the Aboriginal name for the Denmark River, meaning Black Swan – was released at a property near Highbury, in WA's Great Southern.

Koorabup was developed by Primary Industries and Regions SA's research division the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) with support from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and funds from AgriFutures Australia's Export Fodder Program, as part of the National Oat Breeding program.

The variety was initially crossed in 2005 from two WA advanced breeding lines and has been tested in field trials at several locations across the nation, including Cunderdin and Highbury in WA.

SARDI principal plant breeder Pamela Zwer said Koorabup had similar traits to the popular oats variety Carrolup, but with improved resistance to fungal disease, septoria.

Septoria occurs throughout the cereal growing areas of WA and is most severe in high rainfall areas, causing crop losses of up to 50 per cent in susceptible varieties.

"The trait that sets Koorabup apart is that it is moderately resistant to moderately susceptible to septoria, whereas most oats varieties are susceptible to highly susceptible to this disease," she said.

"This resistance can result in hay yields slightly higher than Carrolup and improved quality performance, providing an alternative cropping option – particularly for growers in the medium to high rainfall zones, where septoria is common."

Dr Zwer said Koorabup also had characteristics highly desired by the oaten hay trade.

"This variety produces a distinctive blueish-green crop, with thin stems that meets hay processing requirements, although its water soluble carbohydrates averaged slightly lower in WA trials," she said.

Koorabup is regarded as a mid-tall variety, with early mid to midseason maturity.

In addition to its improved resistance to septoria, it also has good rust and bacterial blight resistances.

Sean Blechynden attended the launch on behalf of the AgriFutures™ Export Fodder Advisory Panel. Mr Blechynden said the new variety has great potential.

"It certainly does have promise in its visual appearance and texture and like all new varieties, it will need to be grown in different areas of the state to see how it performs," said Mr Blechynden.

Koorabup seed has been bulked up in the past two years and will be available after harvest via the National Oat Breeding program's alliance with commercial partner AEXCO.

The Oaten Hay Breeding program is funded by PIRSA-SARDI, AgriFutures™ Export Fodder Program and DPIRD. To read the full article visit agrifutures.com.au/koorabup-oats

Current projects

Project ID	Project Name	Finish	Principal Investigator	Research Organisation
PRJ-011029	National Hay Agronomy project	10/06/2022	Troup, Georgie	Western Australian Agriculture Authority
PRJ-011946	Yield and quality assessment of dual purpose wheat for the export hay industry	30/11/2022	Faulkner, Michael	AgriLink Agricultural Consultants Pty Ltd
PRJ-011029	Chemical Residue Monitoring for the Fodder Industry	31/05/2024	McMullen, Gerard	McMullen Consulting Pty Ltd

Final report project summary: Export fodder workplace safety standards

This project was designed to assess workplace health and safety (WHS) problems and issues within the Australian export fodder processing industry with a focus on identifying key areas of Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) risk and the development of strategies to alleviate/mitigate these risks.

Between September 2018 and February 2019, 21 export fodder facilities (AFIA members) were visited by Tricia Chant, to determine how the facilities were operating and whether there were any areas that were not meeting current work health and safety legislation.

Individual reports were prepared for each site and provided to the 'persons conducting a business or undertaking' (PCBU) or their delegate. The reports detailed the findings, and also provided brief information on what was required in order for the company to rectify any findings. The specific findings of the individual audits have been summarised within this report, however any identifying detail has been purposely removed.

Outcomes

A total of 21 sites were audited during the project with 193 findings found across the sites, resulting in an average of just over nine per site (9.19). The lowest number of findings at one particular site was three, and the highest was 16.

Implications for the export fodder industry

It is recommended that each site reviews their individual reports and addresses the findings made. If there are any areas that are not clearly understood, or if there is further guidance or assistance sought, the individual companies are invited to contact the auditor directly.

As a follow up, the auditor will contact each audited facility (by email) to determine if and how the findings of the audits are being addressed, and whether or not any further assistance may be required. Additionally, formal feedback on the project will be sought.

Read the full final project summary at agricultures.com.au/export-fodder

AgriFutures Australia: Advisory Panels and selection process

AgriFutures Australia is committed to working with industry to deliver the research and development outcomes that meet rural Australia's needs. We work closely with Advisory Panels to decide on research priorities and to make investment decisions each year.

Members of AgriFutures Australia's Advisory Panels are selected following an open call process which involves a competitive skills-based assessment and/or consultation with key industry bodies and stakeholders. The successful applicants are appointed to the respective Advisory Panel by the Managing Director of AgriFutures Australia. Applicants are required to declare any actual or perceived conflict of interest to the AgriFutures Australia Managing Director prior to appointment. Any subsequent conflicts of interest are managed in accordance with the Corporation's Conflict of Interest Policy.

The term of appointment of Advisory Panel members is initially for three years, with a maximum of two consecutive terms being applicable to any members of the Advisory Panel. However, it may be necessary to retain members for more than two, three year terms to ensure the availability of particular scarce expertise. Where possible, to maintain continuity of corporate knowledge on an Advisory Panel, only up to half the membership of an Advisory Panel are changed at any one time.

The operation AgriFutures Australia's Advisory Panels is at all times consistent with the Corporation's charter under the Primary Industries Research and Development Act (PIRD Act) and AgriFutures Australia's Strategic Research and Development Plan. Functions of the Advisory panels include:

- Advising on applications for RD&E support in accordance with the objectives and strategies in the Five Year Plans and Corporation guidelines
- Advising on, and assisting in, the dissemination, adoption and commercialisation of the results of the RD&E activity.
- Monitoring progress in implementing the relevant RD&E Plan and contributing to progress reports to the Board.
- Consulting with, and reporting to, the relevant industry organisation/s in relation to the performance of its functions.

AgriFutures Australia is dedicated to embracing and promoting cultural, age and gender diversity on all of our Advisory Panels. To learn more about the AgriFutures Australia Advisory Panels please visit agrifutures.com.au/export-fodder-advisory-panel