

SPAA in action

Kirstie Murphy,
SPAA Executive Officer

130 farmers and PA industry representatives travelled from as far as Victoria and the south east of SA to attend the SPAA EXPO held at Cleve in early August.

The event was well supported by sponsors and exhibitors. Displays of new PA technology were presented by SARDI and our premium sponsors: gps-Ag, Terrabyte Services, CaselH, John Deere and Omnistar. Landmark, Rinex, Precision Cropping Technologies and Topcon were trade sponsors at the EXPO.

Participants had the opportunity to hear presentations by PA

farmer and consultant Clive Blacker from the UK, Michael Wells on the Value of EM and Matt McCallum on the Economics of PA Technologies. In addition, three farmers who are 'PA pioneers' Randall Wilksch, Graeme Baldock and Ashley Wakefield shared their practical experiences in using PA technologies (see page 22). Thanks must go to all who encourage farmers to attend especially - EP PA Group coordinators Graeme Baldock and Randall Wilksch, and the Ag Excellence Alliance for co-funding a bus from the YP.

Some of the key points made at the EXPO:

- The need to keep it simple;
- RTK yield monitors can provide both yield and topography maps;
- Focus on increasing production not just reducing costs;

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- Nutrient replacement as a fertiliser strategy can provide rapid returns;
- Produce gross margin maps
- EM38 surveys can help in targeting soil sampling points for nutrition;
- Guidance and auto-steer deliver cost savings but also reduce fatigue and increase productivity.
- Inter row sowing helps deal with stubble at seeding and improves crop emergence.

In addition to the EXPO, SPAA has been promoting the adoption of PA at the Birchip Cropping Group's Expo, the Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Conference, the Australian Wine Industry Trade Exhibition and the YP Machinery Field Days.

SPAA Committee 2007/08

Executive

Malcolm Sargent,
SPAA President
Farmer, Crystal Brook SA
E malcolmsargent@spaa.com.au
P 08 8636 2565, M 0407 395 075

Mark Branson,
SPAA Vice President
Farmer, Stockport SA
E marknola@activ8.net.au
P 08 8528 2412, M 0417 832 776

Brian Tiller,
SPAA Immediate Past President
Farmer, Warnertown SA
E btiller@bigpond.com
P 08 8634 3053, M 0408 810 068

Peter Cousins,
SPAA Treasurer
Agricultural Consultant,
Crystal Brook SA
E petercousins@spaa.com.au
P 08 8636 2649, M 0408 210 893

Allan Mayfield,
SPAA Research Coordinator
Agricultural Consultant, Clare SA
E allanmayfield@spaa.com.au
P 08 8842 3230, M 0418 818 569

Committee members:

Rob Bramley,
Principal Research Scientist - CSIRO
Sustainable Ecosystems, Adelaide SA
E Rob.Bramley@csiro.au
P 08 8303 8594, M 0417 875 803

Edward Cay,
gps-Ag, Kadina SA
E ecay@GPS-Ag.com.au
P 08 8821 4128 M 0428 428 707

John Heap,
Senior Research Scientist - SARDI,
Adelaide SA
E Heap.John@saugov.sa.gov.au
P 08 8303 9444, M 0428 833 119

Colin Hinze,
Viticulturist, Taylors Wines,
Auburn SA
E colinh@taylorswines.com.au
P 08 8849 1171, M 0404 819 330

Matt McCallum,
Agricultural Consultant,
Ardrossan SA
E matthew@agconsulting.com.au
M 0438 895 167

Richard Turner,
Farmer, Snowtown, SA
E rpturner@bigpond.com
P 08 8865 2167, M 0428 652 167

Ashley Wakefield,
Farmer, Urania SA
E ashley@netyp.com.au
P 08 8834 1219, M 0408 606 177

Randall Wilksch,
Farmer, Yeelanna SA
E faithfield@bigpond.com
P 08 8676 5050, M 0427 86 5051

Leighton Wilksch
Product Development Agronomist,
Landmark, An AWB Company,
Paskeville, SA
E leighton.wilksch@landmark.com.au
M 0408 428 714