

# 2016 GRDC Grains Research Updates Merredin

Wednesday 9 March

Merredin Community and Leisure Centre

## Premier Event

A full day program showcasing the latest grains research technology, innovations to improve the productivity and profitability of farms in the Kwinana East Port Zone

Hosted by:



Supported by:



Proudly assisted by:



Department of  
Agriculture and Food



**GIWA**  
Grain Industry Association  
of Western Australia

# Keynote Speakers



**Rob Saik, CEO Agri-Trend Group, Alberta, Canada**

## **Ten trends to affect grain growers in the next decade**

Rob Saik is the founder of the Agri-Trend Group of companies, a large consulting company based in Canada which uses on-line farm data management and a unique mentoring approach for assisting farm businesses. He has been involved in the development of many new business processes and spearheaded several advancements in technology integration in agriculture including the development of the Agri-Data<sup>®</sup> Solution, winner of Alberta's 2002 E-business of the Year for on-line farm data management. Mr Saik is creator of The Agri-Prize in July 2015, a collaborations with Agri-Trend, John Deere and Glacier Farm Media. In 2015 Mr Saik was awarded "Canadian Agri-Marketer of the Year" by the Canadian Association of Agricultural Marketers.

Rob has travelled the world extensively working on technology integration and agricultural advancements and will be sharing his knowledge on the future of farming.



**Bret Turpin, Project Manager Agricultural Products,  
Autonomous Solutions, Utah, USA**

Mr Turpin has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and Business from Utah State University and is the Agriculture Product Owner at Autonomous Solutions Inc. (ASI).

Mr Turpin spent most of his life in the agricultural community before moving to the robotics industry in 2002, including over 10 year's managing the development of mobile robotic systems. For the last six years, Mr Turpin has been focused on the design and implementation of unmanned systems for agriculture machinery.

ASI develops and sells systems of robots in industries such as mining, military, agriculture, material handling, automotive proving grounds and others. For over 15 years, ASI has been the leader in providing vehicle automation solutions and has systems operating around the world in widely varied markets including agriculture machinery.

Mr Turpin will share with you, ASI's experiences in these endeavours and focus on the current state of technology in farming automation and where the future lies.

## GRDC Grains Research Update, Merredin



Time	Activity and Speaker		
9.30 am	<b>Registration and morning tea</b>		
10.00 am	Welcome Introduction <i>Doug McGinniss, Chairman MADFIG</i>		
10.15 am	New look GRDC Grains Research Update and RCSN Members <i>Roger States, GRDC Manager Regional Grower Services – West</i>		
10.30 am	Ten trends to affect grain growers in the next decade <i>Rob Saik, CEO Agri-Trend Group, Alberta, Canada</i>		
11.30 am	Lessons from 2015 and what it means going forward – a look at the season and some of the key agronomic and business decisions made around it <i>Nick Gillett, farmer and Nuffied Scholar, Bencubbin and Nic McGregor, AgVise, Merredin</i>		
12.15 pm	<b>Lunch</b>		
1.10 pm	<b>Concurrent Sessions</b>		
	<b>Room A</b> <b>Seeding Strategies in a changing climate</b>	<b>Room B</b> <b>What to do about soils?</b>	<b>Room C</b> <b>Managing the crop</b>
1.15 pm	Why are farmers seeding early and seeding strategies for success <i>Dr Andrew Fletcher, CSIRO</i>	A comparison of lime, dolomite and gypsum for increasing crop production – results from a long term trial <i>James Easton, CSBP</i>	National Variety Trials update and the MADFIG Yardstick trial <i>Bridget Doyle and Curtis Liebeck, Kalyx</i>
1.45 pm	South west WA is losing its Mediterranean climate <i>Dr David Stephens, AEGIC</i>	Getting the best out of tillage and lime in the farming system <i>Greg Shea, DAFWA</i>	Local lime sources, low rainfall canola and the double break <i>Bob Nixon, Kalannie</i>
2.15 pm	Grazing early sown canola in the eastern wheatbelt <i>Brad Joyce, ConsultAg</i>	Increasing soil pH can improve soil P availability <i>Craig Scanlan, DAFWA</i>	Oat variety and agronomy update <i>Georgie Troup, DAFWA</i>
2.45 pm	<b>Afternoon tea</b>		
3.10 pm	Putting a dollar value on best practice grain selling <i>Kass Dumesny and Charlie Sullivan, ProFarmer</i>		
3.45 pm	Taking a long term view of crop rotations and what is working in the Eastern Wheatbelt <i>Dr Andrew Fletcher, CSIRO</i>		
4.15 pm	Farming Automation: State of the art technology today and what the future holds <i>Bret Turpin, Project Manager of Agricultural Products, Autonomous Solutions, Utah, USA</i>		
4.55 pm	Wrap up, thanks and close <i>Julie Alvaro, Merredin farmer and GRDC Western Regional Panel Member</i>		
5.00 pm	<b>Sundowner</b>		



## GRDC Grains Research Update, Merredin Registration Form

**Cost:** \$40 incl GST per person

To register, go online <http://www.giwa.org.au/2016researchupdates>

Alternatively complete this form, direct credit payment to the bank account details below and return form to Kodie Fulker, [kodie.fulker@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:kodie.fulker@agric.wa.gov.au) or fax 9041 1138

Otherwise you can pay on the day however registrations are required by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March for catering purposes, phone Kodie on 9081 3108

Name	Organisation	Grower Y/N	Amount paid	Phone number	Email address
			\$		
			\$		
			\$		
			\$		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	\$		

Dietary requirements ie. vegetarian, allergy: \_\_\_\_\_

### Payment details

Direct credit **Bank:** Rabobank

**Account name:** Merredin & Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG) Inc.

**BSB:** 142-001

**Account number:** 158243548

Please note **Research Updates** and **Surname** in payment field, a tax invoice will be emailed once full payment received.