

Stirlings to Coast Farmers

Number of members: 49

Founded: 2009

Location: Shires of Plantagenet, Albany and Cranbrook



Formed in 2009, Stirlings to Coast Farmers have proved they are more than just farms with stunning views of mountain ranges, with innovative ideas and a host of driven farmers resulting in adoptable technology from an array of relevant research projects.

“Key to their success has been the unique relationships developed with researchers from DAFWA and the group recently securing sponsorship to support the hiring of a part time research officer to assist with the array of projects.”

The group covers an area from Frankland in the west to Wellstead in the east, and south of the Stirling Ranges. The majority of the 45 members are from broad acre, mixed farming enterprises, and most of the group’s activities to date have had a cropping focus.

From their strategic plan, Stirlings to Coast Farmers developed a vision for the group to deliver credible, relevant research and information to members. They have followed this vision with success, receiving funding for two GRDC Agribusiness Trial Extension Network grants to work on management of hybrid canola and herbicide resistance. Soil health is a major focus for the group with soil acidity and non-wetting issues a focus.



Key to the success of the group has been the unique relationships the members have developed with researchers from the Department of Agriculture and Food Albany office, working on a number of different projects with them. Stirlings to Coast farmers have also recently secured sponsorship to help support the hiring of a part time research officer to assist with the array of projects.



The group is keen to find new malt barley varieties and marketing options from across Australia's grain growing region better suited to the group's local region. A lot of malt barley is grown in the area, but the varieties available such as Baudin are becoming increasingly difficult to grow. As a result, the group has sought out activities for speeding up the breeding process, and have developed new relationships with a breeding company to assist with the commercialisation of up-and-coming varieties by implementing farmer-scale trials.

Several events are held each year including Crop Updates, half-day workshops on relevant issues as required and a spring field day, which will usually involve breakfast, lunch and dinner and visits to more than 10 trial sites in the region. Machinery demonstrations are also held annually, where the group will invite members to display their own machinery to their fellow members and share their experiences.

For more information on Stirlings to Coast Farmers, visit www.gga.org.au.

