



GGA Regional Meeting - Merredin
16th February 2016

Merredin and District Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)

Neil Smith & Doug McGinniss

2015 Review

- MADFIG now off the ground, running successful trials in 2015. Has been interesting and new experience dealing with the different stakeholders.
- Activities in 2015 included spray day and bus tour

2016 Outlook

- Would like a paid employee to run the admin side as it is hard for volunteers to balance the time and make sure things run smoothly
- Would be great to have someone available to help with funding, set up trials, publishing, liaising with groups. This resource could be shared with other groups like FEAR
- Co-hosting GRDC Research Updates, have some new trials on the ground as well as some ongoing trials (barley and yardstick trial alongside NVT)
- Wish list for 2016 – grow the group membership from 8 farming businesses to 30
- Industry are interested in working with us which is exciting but challenge to set up the group properly first.

Western Australian No-Till Farming Association (WANTFA)

David Minkey & Clint Della Bosca

2015 Review

- No dramas compared to year before (money issues), same staff this year has provided stability
- 2015 lesson – you don't always get funding! Focus on what funding bodies want and cannot assume that where you have got funding before, you'll get it again

2016 Outlook

- Develop a more sustainable funding model and keep our 8/9 employees. Work with other grower groups, include this in funding proposals, as we need this funding and collaboration to have the capacity to deliver on projects. This time next year, want a more sustainable funding model, not relying on waves of funding coming and going. May need to cut back to 4-5 staff if funding isn't found.



Far East Agricultural Research (FEAR) Group

Brad Auld & Naomi McMiles

2015 Review

- Was a big year for members, now with 27 registered farmer members. Events held were crop updates and September field walk and sheep update, with good attendance across all events.
- Biggest problem, lost NRM Officers through shire who provided admin support to the group.
- Overall a good year: Expanded the stock side, different sponsors, went really well. Seeding rate trials on 4 different farms – living farm and DAFWA. Waiting on report, hoping to run for another 2 years, get some good data to present.

2016 Outlook

- Could be tough year as group administration will be voluntary
- Joined with MADFIG for delivery of GRDC Research Updates
- See how year turns out, keep feet on the ground and members coming in
- General updates, field day (will cut back to two events).
- Last year quite a few corporate members – half farmers, half corporate

Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE)

Vanessa Stewart

2015 Review

- Funding success from Wheatbelt NRM.
- Successful grain marketing day, advanced marketing sessions, well received. Sundowners – financial planning and Mark McKeon on time management etc. Partners in Grain workshops.

2016 Outlook

- Agrimaster training in Merredin – budgeting for advanced and beginners.
- Maggie Dent speaking in two sessions targeting parenting tips for fathers.
- Changes on the board – three years old, looking at new people onto the committee.