

PROGRAM DAY 1 – 16 FEBRUARY

8.00 am REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

8.45 am PLENARY SESSION 1

8.45 am **Welcome** – Peter Bird, Senior Regional Manager West, GRDC
Future directions for GRDC investments – Sharon Starick, GRDC Chair

9.10 am **GRDC award presentations** – Gary Lang, Chair GRDC Western Panel

9.25 am **What grain markets want; and how Australia delivers** - Richard Simonaitis, Grains Australia

10.05 am **Looking forward, looking back – 30-year anniversary panel**
Chair – Pip Courtney
Panel members

- Geoff Fosbery
- Juliet McDonald
- Mark Sweetingham
- Nicole Kerr

10.50 am MORNING TEA

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

11.30 am	SESSION 1 Soil Amelioration	SESSION 2 Legumes and Pulses	SESSION 3 Management Practices	SESSION 4 Disease
	Tricks and tips for reengineering soils across different environments Gaus Azam, DPIRD	What is stopping us from growing more pulse crops and the influence of geopolitics on marketing pulses from WA Kadambot Siddique, UWA	Improved management of herbicide residues in soil Gavan McGrath, Ishka Solutions NR - Fixing nitrogen while dodging herbicide residues Riley Drage, Murdoch	CCDM in the spotlight Chair – Mark Gibberd NR - Uncovering genetic resistance to Spot Form Net Blotch in barley Sundara Link NR - The gene <i>Cyc8</i> is essential for the development and pathogenicity of the necrotrophic fungus, <i>Sclerotinia sclerotiorum</i> Thomas Hill NR - Multi-species pangenomics provides insight to virulence and fungicide resistance Naomi Gray NR - The involvement of protein kinases in wheat disease susceptibility - a case study of <i>Septoria nodorum</i> blotch (SNB) Asiri Padukka Vidanalage
12.05 pm	5-minute moving			
12.10 pm	Setting up for success: Reaching and sustaining yield potentials in ameliorated sands Therese McBeath, CSIRO	Legume D&E in WA Daniel Kidd, GGA NR - The barriers and opportunities for canola-legume intercropping in WA Chloe Rout, UWA	Australian grain growers' perceptions of the definition of regeneration agriculture, changing agricultural practices and indicators to support farm practices. Jacqueline Williams, Southern Cross Uni	The Australian Fungicide Resistance Extension Network: promoting effective fungicide resistance management in Australian grains. Nola D'Souza, CCDM
12.45 pm	LUNCH			

*NR – indicates New Researcher presentation

GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE

2026

1.40 pm	SESSION 5 Soils Progress on soil water repellency David Henry, Murdoch University	SESSION 6 The future of canola GRDC's Low Carbon Liquid Fuels Feedstock Roadmap Cameron Begley, Spiegare	SESSION 7 Rotations Development of a soil health framework for Australian agricultural production systems Mark Farrell, CSIRO	SESSION 8 The future of Agriculture What can grains learn from other industries about the adoption of digital technology Roger Lawes, CSIRO
2.10 pm	5-minute moving			
2.15 pm	Gravel mulch improves cereal yield and water use efficiency on alkaline sodic soils in the eastern wheatbelt of WA Glen Riethmuller, DPIRD	How to increase canola production without increasing disease risk? Is it possible? Steve Marcroft, Marcroft Grains Pathology	Species by TOS trials evaluates performance of major crops in WA Stephanie Boyce, DPIRD	Nanoscale solutions to a really big problem: a nanoparticle-based approach to fighting fungal pathogens Liz Czislowski, CCMD
2.45 pm	5-minute moving			
2.50 pm	NR - Amelioration of aluminium toxicity in wheat using silicon Suma Karki, UWA Amendments for sandy soils Richard Bell, Murdoch Uni	Understanding the driving factors leading to fungicide resistance in the blackleg pathogen of canola Angela Van de Wouw, Uni of Melbourne	WA Farming Systems Trials: Rotation by nitrogen responses Martin Harries, DPIRD NR - Cross trial analysis of rotation by environment interaction in the WA Farming Systems project Ben Nestor, DPIRD	Smart Sprays Chair – Daniel Murphy, Murdoch NR - SMART SPRAYS: Developing biodegradable films for broadacre cropping Alexandra Gulizia NR - How mulching practices shape soil chemical and biological processes Samantha Viljoen NR - Advanced water barrier spray for soil application in grain production Annachiara Codello NR - SMART SPRAY: Adhesive spray for frost protection Hussain Alattas
3.25 pm	AFTERNOON TEA			
4.00 pm	SESSION 9 Nutrition Predicting nitrogen cycling and losses in Australian cropping systems - augmenting measurements to enhance modelling Graeme Schwenke, DPIRD NSW	SESSION 10 Abiotic Stressors Frost and Heat Management and Analytics (FAHMA) Randall Donohue, CSIRO	SESSION 11 Management decisions Influence of soil amelioration and amendment practices on <i>Rhizoctonia solani</i> AG8 in Western Australian cropping systems Ahmed Saad, DPIRD	SESSION 12 Sustainability Introducing GRDC's Sustainability Initiatives Tom Giles, GRDC and Louise Barton, UWA
4.30 pm	5-minute moving,			
4.35 pm	Scaling precision agriculture: How hyperspectral satellites unlock dynamic nitrogen management for Australian wheat farms George Marangos-Gilks, Messium	Management of ice nucleation bacteria to mitigate frost Amanuel Bekuma, DPIRD	Soil testing to predict crop response to management practices used on alkaline-sodic-saline soils of the eastern wheatbelt Geoff Anderson, DPIRD	A review of grain emissions and gross margins across rainfall zones: Practical insights for 2026 Christophe d'Abbadie, DPIRD
5.05 pm	NETWORKING SUNDOWNER			

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PROGRAM DAY 2 – 17 FEBRUARY

8.30 am WELCOME COFFEE

9.00 am Welcome Back – Peter Bird, GRDC

9.15 am **PLENARY SESSION 2**

Nitrogen fertiliser decisions – the good, the right and the risky, James Hunt, University of Melbourne

10.00 am

10-minute moving

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

10.10 am

SESSION 13
Nutrition

Residual fertiliser nitrogen:
Will this year's cereal crop
use it?
Louise Barton, UWA

SESSION 14
Wheat agronomy

Yield and protein
determination in wheat:
Lessons from cultivar
selection and nitrogen
management from Kansas, US
Romulo Lollato, Kansas State
University

SESSION 15
Pest Management

The end of an era?
Understanding the decline of
neonicotinoid seed treatment
efficacy on green peach
aphids
Paul Umina, Cesar Australia

SESSION 16
Weed Management

Weed control in a “post
paraquat” world: How to make
glufosinate work against key
Australian weeds
Roberto Busi, DPIRD

10.40 am

5-minute moving

10.45 am

Advancing nitrogen-use-
efficiency in the Geraldton
Port Zone in high-fertility
environments
Nick Eyres, GSA Consulting

Managing pre-harvest
sprouting in wheat: From
physiology to agronomy
Jeremy Curry, DPIRD

Predators and Beneficial
Insects
Chair – Helen Spafford
**NR - Training ladybird beetles
to improve biological control
in canola**
Ali Zahid, Murdoch
**NR - Modifying natural
enemies' behaviour for better
biological control in field**
Jhon Avellaneda Nieto, Murdoch
**NR - Managing Russian Wheat
Aphid: Predatory potential of
native ladybirds**
Chloe Elsegood, Murdoch
**NR - When could less spray
mean more pay? Monitoring
beneficial parasitoid wasps
working to benefit your farm**
Amber Balfour-Cunningham,
UWA and DPIRD

Demonstrating effective
management of *Matricaria*
species in the low and medium
rainfall zones of Western
Australia.
Andrew Wherrett, Living Farm

11.15 am

MORNING TEA

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GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE

2026

11.45 am	SESSION 17 Nutrition NR - Improving early-sown legume nodulation by establishing rhizobial inoculant in the prior year Jake Taylor, Murdoch Uni Nitrogen contributions from harvestable annual legumes: Implications for WA farming systems Robert Harrison, DPIRD and Murdoch	SESSION 18 Crop Management Understanding how fungicides move inside plants Jordi Muria-Gonzalez, CCDM	SESSION 19 Pest Management Slug and snail management Michael Nash, AIM NR - Role of dietary calcium on the growth of grain pest snails Muhammad Zubair, Murdoch	SESSION 20 Weed Management Fleabane is getting worse - but here's what to do about it Harmohinder Dhammu, DPIRD
12.20 pm	5-minute moving			
12.25 pm	NR - <i>Austroboletus occidentalis</i>: A generalist biofertiliser for crops and pastures. Yasodhini Liyanage, UWA 30 years of soil testing and plant nutrition Craig Scanlan, DPIRD	Managing grass weeds in oats for grain and key agronomic levers Garren Knell, ConsultAg	Pre-conditioning generalist predators: A novel approach for precision pest management Shovon Sarkar, Murdoch NR - Investigation of wheat resistance mechanisms to the Russian Wheat Aphid (<i>Diuraphis noxia</i>) Ayesha Warnasooriya, Murdoch	Herbicide programs for button grass suppression in summer fallows Arslan Peerzada, DPIRD
1.00 pm	LUNCH			
1.50 pm	FOCUS SESSION 1 USING BIOLOGICALS Convenor David Bowran Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Lamond Lyn Abbott Helen Spafford Daniel Dixon (VC) Chris Poole 	FOCUS SESSION 2 IS THERE A FUTURE FOR PULSES IN WA? Convenor Ruth Young Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barry Mudge Erin Cahill Quenten Knight Dan Mullan Mark Seymour 	FOCUS SESSION 3 MEASURING AND MANAGING EMISSIONS Convenor Douglas Rodgers Maddison McNeil Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rikki Foss Ed Scott Danielle Gale Larissa Taylor 	FOCUS SESSION 4 FINDING WHEAT'S SWEET SPOT YIELD VS QUALITY VS PRICE VS RISK Convenor Richard Williams Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romulo Lollato Dion Bennett Daniel Kidd Jules Alvaro Gerard Paganoni
3.25 pm	15-minute moving			
3.25 pm	PLENARY SESSION 3 Beyond Perception: Connecting through trust and transparency Chair - Pip Courtney Panel members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Courtney Bailey, Voconiq Mitch Hooke AM 			
4.25 pm	GRDC closing comments Peter Bird, GRDC			
4.35 pm	SPONSORS AND SPEAKERS' SUNDOWNER – All attendees welcome			

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