



Regional engagement rollout continues in SA
EverGraze® field day focuses on perennial performance in dry times

FFI CRC early career scientists present at 2009 CRCA Conference

CRC projects commissioning near completion

Workshop shows how ewe performance on saltbush can be improved

Understanding Practice Change by Rural Landholders presentations now online

Our CRC' and *EverGraze®*

Public lecture promotes biodiversity benefits of oil mallees

WA report shows community groups improving NRM

EverGraze® field day focuses on perennial performance in dry

Regional engagement rollout continues in SA



FFI CRC representative Andrew Fisher (DWLBC) presenting at the recent Murray Bridge engagement session in SA.

Five FFI CRC regional engagement briefings were recently held across South Australia in conjunction with the SA Agricultural Bureau's series of Climate Variability workshops. The 'double bill' briefings attracted a wide range of stakeholders and reinforced the inherent role the

times



Participants discovering the value of perennial pastures at last year's EverGraze Field Day at Hamilton.

Perennial pastures are the backbone of successful grazing enterprises and in the face of variable climate provide reliable pasture growth to maintain livestock.

However, this year started with below average rainfall for most farming areas in south west Victoria and rainfall in December did not make up for another disappointing Spring. What does this mean for our perennial pastures and have we got them planted in the right locations?

There has been a gradual decline in persistence for many traditional perennial ryegrass pastures as rainfall and grazing pressures take their toll, yet some species are able to persist better than others and some are providing extra flexibility.

Highlighting which perennial pastures perform better under different conditions will be a key feature at *EverGraze's* fourth annual Field Day on Thursday, 14 May at the Department of Primary Industries (DPI Vic) Pavilion, Mount Napier Road, Hamilton. Registration commences at 9:30am with

FFI CRC has in addressing climate change adaptation.

CRC researchers presented on both mature and new project work with the SA Adoption Team highlighting opportunities to engage in both research and extension activities as part of FFI CRC regional networks.

Keen interest was shown in sponsoring on-farm research projects, becoming affiliated with the FFI CRC, providing local information and resources, testing out decision-support tools, establishing electronic links between websites, accredited training opportunities, and receiving CRC publications and updates.

Support from the Regional NRM Boards was strong, with each providing a representative to chair the engagement sessions and facilitate a final discussion at day's end. Participation from farmer groups and agribusiness was equally pleasing, with plenty of advice and feedback given to the presenting researchers.

SA Adoption Manager Anna Dutkiewicz (DWLBC) said the regional briefings were delivered on bended knee with the lid on the little black jewellery box opened to reveal the sparkling FFI CRC research proffered.

"The perennial seeds have been sown and interest in engagement is growing," Anna said.

"Thanks to DWLBC's Trevor Dooley and the FFI CRC researchers for their efforts in making these regional briefings a success."



FFI CRC early career scientists present at 2009 CRC Conference

Two CRC PhD Students, Nikki Mouat (University of Western Australia) and Melissa Fraser (University of

the day concluding at 4pm.

The Field Day will feature a series of short practical and interactive presentations held prior to a free barbecue lunch. From 1:30pm to 4pm there will be a self-guided tour of the site with *EverGraze* staff available to answer questions throughout the afternoon.

At the same time there will be a presentation on establishment and grazing management of summer active tall fescue highlighting the latest research from FFI CRC funded PhD student, Maggie Raeside (Charles Sturt University).

The DPI Hamilton *EverGraze* site relies on the strong perennial pasture base (established in 2004/2005) to test the sheep and cattle grazing systems.

Farmers and other interested people can attend for the full day or either morning or afternoon sessions.

Registration on or before Monday May 11 is essential for catering purposes. Contact Sandra Greenaway on (03) 5573 0971 for further information.

EverGraze – More livestock from perennials is a FFI CRC, MLA and AWI research and delivery partnership.

For more information on *EverGraze* go to:
www.evergraze.com.au



Workshop shows how ewe

Adelaide), have been selected to give Early Career Scientist presentations at the 2009 CRCA Conference in Canberra on 26 May. Their selection makes FFI CRC the only CRC to have two early career scientist presenters at this year's conference.

Nikki's presentation will focus on her research to develop new and simple methods for predicting groundwater depth and regional dryland-salinity risk, while Melissa will present on her work with the SA *Keilira Farm Management* group to help them manage their sodicity problem that arose from a lowering of soil salinity.



CRC projects commissioning near completion

There will be a concerted effort to complete the contracting process for CRC Foundation Projects and to stabilise in-kind staff contributions to FFI CRC as a consequence of the biannual meeting of Participant Representatives on 22 April 2009.

These meetings are an important opportunity for discussion of CRC performance, project activities and commercialisation. Many Participant Representatives have heard we are making good progress against early milestones. However, to have these projects progress and continue to achieve these results, project commissioning must be completed by the end of May.



Understanding Practice Change by

performance on saltbush can be improved



Sheep enjoying the green feed that saltbush offers during drier times.

Helping pregnant ewes thrive while grazing on saltbush will be the focus of a Field Day supported by the *Coorong Forages* project and the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) next month.

The field day to be held on 1 May near Coomandook in SA will explore the options for providing feed supplements to ewes grazing on saltbush and then discuss the skills needed to manage nutrition and grazing management.

Speakers include San Jolly (Productive Nutrition), pasture researcher, Greg Sweeney (SARDI) and grazing specialist, Tim Prance (Rural Solutions SA).

The field day will feature demonstrations on how to:

- Assess sheep body condition
- Estimate feed quantity
- Access measures of feed quality
- Assess the changing needs of ewes

Rural Landholders presentations now online



Videos and podcasts from the popular *Understanding Practice Change by Rural Landholders* symposium are **now available**.

Back in November 2008, the CRC was involved in running this symposium. Now, thanks to some generous sponsorship, the **presentations** are available on line in video and audio formats via a website specifically created for the symposium.

Speakers on the day (shown above from left to right) were Geoff Kaine, David Pannell, Neil Barr, Frank Vanclay, Graham Marshall, Roger Wilkinson, Allan Curtis and Rick Llewellyn. Chairing the symposium was FFI CRC Board Member, Andrew Campbell (absent).

For each speaker, the website provides material from the symposium in a range of formats that include:

- An edited video of each presentation
- Videos of the complete presentation which can be downloaded and viewed any time
- Streaming audio of each complete presentation
- A downloadable podcast (MP3 file) of each complete presentation
- A copy of the speaker's PowerPoint file that can be

- before, during and after pregnancy
- Correct dietary imbalances.

The *Coorong Forages* project is supported by the *Coorong District Local Action Plan* committee and SARDI through funding from the Commonwealth Government's *Caring for Our Country* program, and is linked to the CRC's *Enrich* program.

The field day, which will be held from 10am to 12pm, will start from the *Mount Russell Shearing Shed* located on the corner of Flowery Plain and Peters roads (6km north of Coomandook). For Further information contact Greg Sweeney on (08) 8303 9683 or email sweeney.greg@saugov.sa.gov.au.



Our CRC' and EverGraze®

Our CRC' is a new FFI CRC communication initiative that will involve a series of presentations five times a year by project teams followed by discussions with Participant Representatives, Directors and all interested CRC personnel. These presentations will be scheduled around Board and Participant meetings. A calendar for the meetings, which will be rotated at locations around Australia, is being finalised – keep a watch on E-News for further details of upcoming events in your area.

Participant Representatives and Board Directors recently heard a progress report from the *EverGraze* team at the inaugural 'Our CRC' briefing held in Melbourne on 22 April. The presentations were facilitated by CRC Deputy Chair, Lucinda Corrigan. Presenters at the briefing

viewed on screen.

There are also links to key papers and reports by the presenters. Written versions of the presentations will become the basis for a soon to be published book.

Symposium sponsors were the Department of Primary Industries, Victoria; Future Farm Industries CRC; Landmark; University of Melbourne; University of Western Australia; and the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.



WA report shows community groups improving NRM

Effective management of natural resources in WA has increased with the activities of the six peak regional NRM groups according to a report released by the WA Government.

The report entitled, *Review of the Value of WA Regional NRM Groups in Delivering NRM*, showed that substantial environmental, social and economic benefits has come from the work of the six groups in partnership with community and WA government.

These groups, which are community boards, undertake NRM projects in the South Coast, South West, Avon, Northern Agricultural, Rangelands and the Swan regions of WA to repair, protect and sustainably manage the environment.

The study also identified seven key areas where the Regional NRM Groups add value:

were Angela Avery, Ralph Behrendt and Greg Lodge, Geoff Saul from the National Extension Project and Chris Mirams, the *EverGraze* National Advisory Committee Chair.

Two highlights of the presentations were:

- The superior production performance of *EverGraze* at Hamilton Victoria through highly variable seasons
- The large number of people, groups and supporting sites now involved in *EverGraze*.

The next 'Our CRC' event will be in Perth on Wednesday 10 June 2009, following the FFI CRC Board meeting, and will cover the CRC's Weed Risk Protocol and adoption/extension activities. Please contact Sarah Colombera sarah.colombera@futurefarmcrc.com.au for further details and to register to attend.



Public lecture promotes biodiversity benefits of oil mallees

- Integrating national and state policies and translating them into regional plans
- Providing a community-led and backed platform for NRM planning
- Integrating scientific and local knowledge to inform NRM planning and implementation
- Leveraging investment from diverse sources
- Driving more coordinated and accountable provision of NRM-related services
- Tackling cross-boundary issues
- Accessing and building regional capacity networks and partnerships.

A copy of the report can be downloaded [here](#).





The western pygmy possum – a lover of oil mallee blossoms.

On 23 April, the CRC and CSIRO presented a public lecture on the biodiversity benefits of oil mallees.

The lecture, presented by Dr Patrick Smith (CSIRO), provided the highlights of a three-year FFI CRC project that investigated the level of biodiversity in a selection of oil mallee belts and plantations in the WA wheatbelt.

The study showed that oil mallees provide valuable resources to animals and plants, in particular blossoms as a food source. One of the key findings from the study was the discovery that Western Pygmy possums frequently visit oil mallees at night to feed on their blossoms.

Dr Smith was recently interviewed by ABC Radio WA about the findings of this study. Go [here](#) to listen to the interview.



[back to top](#)



Coming Events

Agribusiness Training Strategic Extension Planning Course

29 April-1 May 2009, Bentley, WA

Email: blacey@agric.wa.gov.au

2009 CRCA Conference

26-28 May 2009, Canberra, ACT

Email: ceo@crca.asn.au

Further information: www.crca.asn.au

The NSW Sustainable Development Conference 2009

12-13 May 2009, Dockside Convention Centre, Sydney, NSW

Email: scott.mckinnon@halledit.com.au

Further information: www.halledit.com.au/nswsdc

National Farmers' Federation National Congress

22-23 June 2009, Brisbane, Qld

Email: nff2009@consec.com.au

Further information: www.congress.nff.org.au

10th International Congress of Ecology

16-20 August 2009, Brisbane, Qld

Email: intecol10@tourhosts.com.au

Further information: www.intecol10.org/default.asp

5th Australia-New Zealand Climate Change and Business Conference

24-26 August 2009, Melbourne, Vic

Email: f.driver@climateandbusiness.com

Further Information: www.climateandbusiness.com/index.cfm

19th Annual Combined Biological Sciences Meeting

28 August 2009, Perth, WA

Further information: www.cbsm.uwa.edu.au/welcome

Agricultural Technologies in a Changing Climate -

2009 CIGR International Symposium of the Australian Society for Engineering in Agriculture

13-16 September 2009, Brisbane, Qld

Email: seag2009@icmsaust.com.au

Further information: www.seag2009.com

Australian Meat Industry Council Conference 2009

24-25 September 2009, TBA

Email: admin@amicprocessors.org.au

WA State NRM Conference

27-30 October 2009, Geraldton, WA

Email: ctc@nacc.com.au

Yorke Peninsula Field Days

29 September to October 1 2009, Paskeville, SA

Email: ypfd@netyp.com.au

Further information: www.ypfielddays.com.au

2009 APEN Conference

11-13 November 2009, Busselton, WA

Further information: www.apen.org.au

WANTFA Annual Conference

10 March 2010, TBA

Email: kaye@wantfa.com.au

Further information: www.wantfa.com.au

You are receiving this email because you asked to be subscribed or are some way involved with Future Farm Industries CRC. To unsubscribe or provide feedback email: greg.lawrence@futurefarmcrc.com.au