

- Federal Agriculture Minister views EverGraze® in action**
- Science meets Parliament seminar profiles CRC scientist**
- SaltDecide gets their monitors ready**
- CRC Weed Risk Assessment Protocol now online**
- FFI CRC student awarded additional funding**
- Recipe books makes a tasty acquisition**
- Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture**

Federal Agriculture Minister views EverGraze® in action



Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke (left) talks with EverGraze® National Advisory Committee Chair, Chris Mirams.

In late May, the Federal Minister for Agriculture Hon. Tony Burke (left) received a firsthand briefing on the EverGraze project by visiting the project's Hamilton Proof Site and touring a farm supporting site in the company of EverGraze's National Advisory Committee and the EverGraze Regional Group.

The trip was looking doubtful in the morning, as the Melbourne fog delayed the flight and after some rescheduling, the Minister touched down in Hamilton early in the afternoon. It started with a visit to nearby Jigsaw Farms where he saw some EverGraze farming systems in action

Science meets Parliament seminar profiles CRC scientist



FFI CRC Plant breeder Graeme Sandral (right) with Kay Hull (middle) and CO2 Group Limited Corporate Development Executive Director Chris Mitchell (left).

Plant breeder, Graeme Sandral, was nominated by the CRC earlier this year to talk about his research and the CRC at the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies' (FAST) Science meets Parliament (SmP) series of seminars in Canberra.

As a result of his presentation given in March, Graeme was invited by the Federal Member for the Riverina, Kay Hull, to give four additional follow up presentations; one in Temora, one in Griffith and two in Wagga Wagga.

"At these presentations, I spoke primarily about the case studies mentioned in my original SmP talk, which covered how CRC research can reduce methane output in livestock and help farmers cope with climate change along with the true, no hype version of potential carbon sequestration in soils," Graeme said.

Graeme also received a response from the Federal Member for New England, Tony Windsor, after his SmP presentation who said he would like to visit Murcia Institute of Agriculture, Food Research and Development while in Spain. The Murcia Institute is working with FFI CRC to test a group of plants known as Federa that could supply green fodder in low rainfall environments of southern Australia.

The material covered in Graeme's presentation, as well as an interview with Graeme, will feature in the forthcoming June 2009 edition of *Focus on*

Once at the Proof Site, the Minister heard about the research underway at Hamilton from Ralph Behrendt who emphasised that productivity gains experienced at the site were superior to district best practice. The Minister made the most of his opportunity to talk with farmers during the whole trip, and conducted interviews with some of them for his web-site. He gained a sense of the power of good science-farmer collaboration supported by the passion of farmers in the region for *EverGraze*.

The highlight for the CRC was the launching of the Prospects for Perennials publication where he acknowledged the important role the CRC played as a credible joint venture and spoke of the importance of R&D and technological change to improve productivity and adaptation to climatic variability, and the need for greater production efficiency to reduce greenhouse gases.

The attention that Hon. Tony Burke showed during the visit will go a long way in making others aware of the valuable research being done by *EverGraze* and the CRC.

EverGraze is a Future Farm Industries CRC, Meat & Livestock Australia and Australian Wool Innovation research and delivery partnership.



SaltDecide gets their monitors ready



One of the new SaltDecide monitors at the Yealering site.

DAFWA staff Don Bennett, Hamish Downes and Richard George recently spent several days at Yealering, located in the WA wheatbelt, pulling out the old and installing a new hydrologic monitoring system for the *SaltDecide* project. The new weirs, loggers and auto-samplers systems are now ready and waiting for the 2009 winter.

Project Leader Dr Richard George said the Yealering site at Waltons and nearby Corkes family farms are the hub for the project.

Perennials.



CRC Weed Risk Assessment Protocol now online



Veldt grass – a common weed in some parts of Australia.

The CRC's Weed Risk Assessment Protocol (WRA), which shows the process followed by FFI CRC in determining the weed-risk posed by species under evaluation, can now be [downloaded](#) from the FFI CRC website.

The WRA is divided into three sections:

- Invasiveness
- Impacts
- Distribution.

Each section has a series of questions that generate a score depending on the response given. A final weed risk score is then calculated by multiplying the adjusted scores for each section, which can then be used to compare weed risk with other species.

Species identified as having a 'very high' weed risk will not be pursued by the CRC, and will be removed from field trials.

Example of WRA test scores of species being evaluated by the CRC are also available for [download](#).



FFI CRC Student awarded additional funding

“Based on earlier data collection by CSIRO and DAFWA, the initial results have suggested that the saltbush plantings are worthy of sustained monitoring,” Dr George said.

“Plot data gathered so far shows both salt yield and runoff have reduced markedly after establishing the saltbush and alley pastures on the property.”

Together with NSW DPI at a similar site near Orange, this research will be critical in determining if saltland revegetation with productive perennial systems can reduce salty runoff - a major goal for Australian water resource and biodiversity asset managers.

“The site will help quantify the on-site and off-site benefits of establishing saltland pastures systems in addition to the on-farming dividends they bring,” Dr George explained.

SaltDecide aims to develop information, tools and datasets to guide NRM investments and decision at farm and catchment scales to reduce the impacts of salinity. The projects consist of two main components: Firstly, field impact assessments on two of the CRC’s key salinity management options, saltbush and oil mallees and secondly, modelling their impact.

For more information about *SaltDecide*, telephone [Dr Richard George \(08\) 9780 6100](tel:0897806100).

Recipe books makes a tasty acquisition



Copies of the popular CLIMA and GRDC cookbook *Passion For Pulses* (shown above) are still available for the very reasonable price of \$10. The book brings together sweet and savoury recipes from around the world, from favourites such as Hommous, Dhal and Chilli Con Carne to the more exotic French Cassoulet, Thai-style Green Beans and Pork, Wattleseed Shortbread and Crab and Chickpea Curry.

Recipes are divided into easy-to-follow sections covering seven regions of the world - Australia, Northern Europe, Southern Europe, the Middle East, Asia, the Indian subcontinent and the Americas - with soups and starters, mains and sweets under each



Successful GGA scholarship recipients Nadine Hollamby and Tristan Cornwall.

FFI CRC funded PhD student Nadine Hollamby has been awarded a Growers Group Alliance (GGA) scholarship for her work with Dr Tim Colmer (UWA) and Dr Ed Barrett-Lennard (DAFWA) in developing a salt-tolerant wheat.

As part of her research, Nadine will compare the new salt-tolerant wheat amphiploid against current wheat varieties and investigating the levels salt stress and grain yields.

The [Growers Group Alliance](#) is a WA-based non-profit farmer driven organisation connecting grower groups, research organisations and agribusinesses funded by the Grains research and Development Corporation.



Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture

Nominations are open for the 2009 Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, with up to \$50,000 available.

Open to those aged between 18 and 35 years, the awards support innovators with a great idea to boost Australia’s agriculture industry to turn their ideas into reality.

Applications close Friday 3rd July. For more information, contact the Science Awards Manager on (02) 6272 5039 or visit the DAFF [Science Awards website](#).



section.

The book is vividly illustrated with full-colour photographs taken by award-winning photographer, Brad Rimmer. To purchase a copy, email the [GRDC bookshop](#).



[back to top](#)

Coming Events

2009 CRCA Conference

27-28 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

2009 Australian Meat Industry Council Conference

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