

AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NATIONAL WORKING PARTY IN GRAIN PROTECTION (NWPGP)



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

15 October 2020

MEETING MARKET REQUIREMENTS

The Australian grain industry came together with an information-packed day at the 47th Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference on 14th October 2020. As with this year's Australian Grains Industry Conference (AGIC) the Grain Storage & Protection Conference was held exclusively online. Delegates were treated to a professional and information filled day and were inspired to continue to support and engage in the work and objectives of the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP).

Conference Chair Gerard McMullen commented "in addition to Covid-19 restrictions, the virtual format provided an opportunity for participation from delegates that due to travel and work commitments would normally not have had the opportunity to attend". Mr McMullen said "the initial feedback confirmed the virtual event provided insights and learnings for industry and ensured the message of the NWPGP was available to a greater range of participants than ever before".

Grain Trade Australia's (GTA) Chair, Mr Andrew Goyder, opened the Conference welcoming delegates and noting that 2020 is the International Year for Plant Health, recognising the need to protect plant health to help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment and boost economic development.

The industry experts

Over 15 speakers and industry experts provided detailed information on a range of communication and extension activities conducted and supported by various industry organisations such as the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).



Andrew Goyder, GTA



Anthony Williams, GRDC

GRDC's new Managing Director Anthony Williams presented on the GRDC Investment Strategy and how it would support the agricultural industry target of \$100 billion in farm gate value by 2030. An important component to achieving this target will be the ongoing investment in a range of activities covering grain storage, chemical use and grain hygiene.

The Insights

- It was highlighted that industry compliance with market MRLs continued to be at a very high level
- Delegates heard from the GRDC Grain Storage Extension Team of the continued trend of growth in farm storage especially in South Australia and parts of Northern Australia.
- New and updated information on grain pests and their resistance to chemical and fumigation practices and studies in this area. Alternative methods of insect control were also discussed.

- Continuing challenges remain in storing grain insect free, meaning hygiene and monitoring practices are critical to ensure the safe storage and integrity of grain. This means the quality of storages and their capability to provide a suitable gas tight environment for fumigation purposes is critical.
- Evolving consumer requirements are increasing pressure to reduce the use of agricultural chemicals and residues in grain. Sustainability, traceability and impacts on the environment of chemical use are increasingly important factors for market access. Australia needs to continue to focus on improvements in its supply chain practices to maintain its current reputation in the global market.

Current and future directions of the Grain Storage and Extension Project managed by the GRDC were outlined:



Chris Warrick, Primary Business

- A large number of storage workshops for growers and other storage operators have been held throughout the year and these are planned to continue.
- Uptake of good storage practice on-farm continues. Surveys indicate a good level of grower understanding of what constitutes a sealed storage.
- An opportunity exists for those survey results to be used by the post-farm gate sector to assist extension activities.



James Deller, APVMA

Advocacy and the role of the agronomy and chemical re-seller sector was discussed at length. It was noted that further opportunities exist to work with that sector to develop specific extension material addressing issues such as the impact of chemical use on market access and any identified information gaps.



Greg Daghish, QLD DAF

Further extension will assist industry's understanding and compliance with label directions and the implications on market access. A number of tools are available, and their use is increasing to assist capture of chemical use and management of stored grain on farm.



Ben White, Farming Ahead Magazine

The feedback

Delegates tuned in from across the country to benefit from the insights and discussion during the panel sessions.



Jenna Garwood, NRS

Mr McMullen commented “the NWPGP conference continued to provide the grain industry the leadership and information that is critical to the sustainability of the grain supply chain. The speakers were outstanding and extremely knowledgeable with the right balance between ‘the science’ and the realities of the market”.



Gerard McMullen, NWPGP

Mr Goyder said “GTA is proud to play its part as conference organiser, despite the challenges we all face right now, we were still able bring together our industry and its people.” “And the added bonus is that delegates will be able to access all of the presentations, Q&A sessions, and resources for the next 30 days” Mr Goyder said.



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