



conference 2010

MACHINERY MATTERS
beyond knife-points

New technologies focus at WANTFA conference

HIGHLIGHTING benefits and overcoming difficulties associated with growers' adoption of new machinery and technology will be the aim of the 2010 Western Australian No-Tillage Farmers Association (WANTFA) conference Machinery Matters: Beyond Knife Points.

Supported by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the annual event will be held at The Vines Resort in the Swan Valley on March 10 and 11.

WANTFA executive officer David Minkey said a lot of new machinery and technology had been made available to growers in the last 15 years and inevitably there were technical problems associated with this fast pace of adoption.

"The conference will be a good opportunity to pause, talk and reflect on new technology," Mr Minkey said.

"International and interstate specialists will address the conference on pros and cons associated with technology, and farmers will talk about their own experiences."

Topics covered will include precision agriculture, tramline farming, disc seeding systems, spray technology, stubble retention management and seed destruction.

The conference has this year been expanded to one and a half days, with an additional half-day Farm Ready course on disc seeding during the second day.

Highlights will include a presentation by WA inventor Ray Harrington on his much anticipated innovation the Harrington Seed Destructor, which attaches to the back of a harvester and destroys weed seeds by pulverising trash.

The machine was initially tested by WANTFA and is being further developed, with funding from the GRDC, before its anticipated commercial release in a couple of years' time.

"Every grower in Australia will want one - it's quite exciting," Mr Minkey said.

Other features at the conference will include the launch of a GRDC-funded booklet *Disc Seeding in Zero-Tillage Seeding Systems - A review of technology and paddock issues*.

Information in the publication will help farmers to make decisions related to zero-till farming.

Those wishing to register to attend WANTFA's Machinery Matters: Beyond Knife Points conference can contact WANTFA communications manager Kaye Phillips-Webb on 0427 223 395 or kaye@wantfa.com.au

Spader generates interest



GROOCCOCK Soil Improvement has been importing the Dutch made Farmax spaders into Australia for just over 12 months.

Company director Roger Groocock, a farmer from Bordertown, South Australia, has been a passionate advocate for improving the soil for many years.

In 2007 he was awarded a Churchill Fellowship which took him to Europe to explore innovative practices to

improve soil health and drive sustainable production increases.

Roger and wife Sue were so impressed with the results of the spader they imported one from the Netherlands, the first of its kind in Australia, to use on their property.

Since then spaders have attracted the interest of farmers and soil researchers keen to explore their potential and have been taken up

in a series of trials and projects in WA and throughout South Australia.

There is a lot of interest in the spader in WA as it can improve the soil structure which aids the even distribution and retention of moisture through the soil profile.

Fertility is also improved by incorporating organic matter, clay, gypsum, fertiliser, trace elements.

Some farmers are taking one year out of their rotation to incorporate a green manure crop, boosting the organic content in the soil, which is well achieved with the Farmax spader.

More information: Contact Roger Groocock on (08) 8754 6025 Mobile 0427 546 025 or email: grooks@lm.net.au

Flower works closely with WANTFA

RESEARCHER Ken Flower's topic at the WANTFA conference will be whether mouldboard ploughing is an option for the long-term no-till trial.

Mr Flower joined WANTFA as a research officer in 2004 and managed the Meckering Technology Demonstration Site and the Long Term No-Till project.

During his time at WANTFA he has developed an understanding of no-till farming systems and established a number of links and collaborative projects with research organizations and farmer groups.

He joined The University of Western Australia in 2008 as a lecturer in agronomy and farming systems and he continues to work closely with WANTFA.



Partner with Australia's largest provider of dedicated carbon sink plantings



For farmers, money does grow on trees

Earn an income while reducing the effects of soil erosion and mitigating salinity. CO₂ Australia is looking to partner with proactive landholders for the 2011 planting program. In addition to capturing carbon dioxide, mallee eucalypt plantings offer significant environmental, agronomic, financial and biodiversity benefits. Planting is at your design, to meet the needs of your farm. Find out more today.



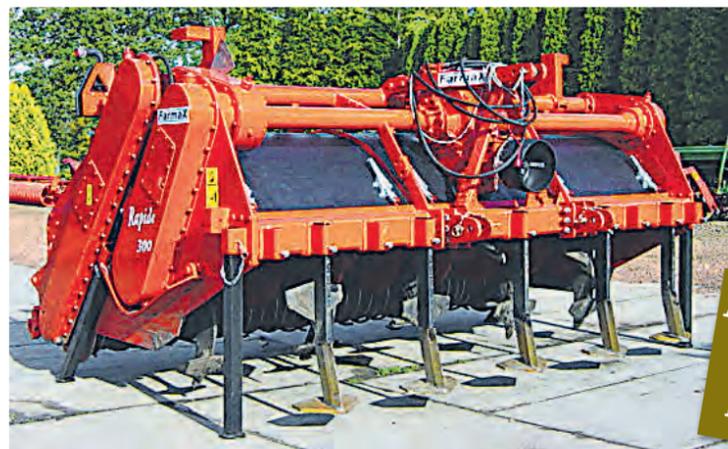
Ph Mark Ritchie 0428 979 888 or visit www.co2australia.com.au Creating a better climate.

1312364

GROOCCOCK PTY LTD

SOIL IMPROVEMENT

FARMAX SPADERS



Available Early March!

- Mix soil thoroughly to depth of 400ml
- Incorporate clay, stubble, green manure
- Fertiliser, trace elements
- Robust drive system
- Gear box rated 300hp / 221 kw
- Bolt on spades
- Hydraulically adjustable rear tyne roller
- Width to 4 metres

1312571

Ph/Fax: 08 8754 6025 Mobile: 0427 546 025
Email: grooks@lm.net.au Web: www.spaders.com.au