

FELICITY PRITCHARD
Pritchard Agricultural Consulting and Extension
Grains Innovation Park
110 Natimuk Road, Horsham, Vic 3401
Ph: (03) 5382 4396 or 0427 600 228

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MEDIA RELEASES

NEW SOYBEAN VARIETIES ON SHOW ON THE DOWNS

New, not-so-new and prospective soybean growers have the opportunity to see for themselves the advances in breeding of soybean varieties suited to Queensland's Darling Downs at a field day on Tuesday 7 April. And an excellent line up of speakers will also give growers the chance to learn about desiccation of soybean crops, irrigation management and marketing options of their crops.



VARIETY IS THE SPICE: Julie Ferguson will update growers on soybean varieties on the Darling Downs next week.

Photo: courtesy Catherine Norwood, Coretext Communications.

Three new soybean varieties are showcased beside four older varieties near Norwin on the Central Downs in a demonstration for the Better Oilseeds project of the Grains Research and Development Corporation and Australian Oilseeds Federation. Water use efficiency is also being monitored as part of the demonstration.

Two CSIRO soybean variety trials are also at the site, giving growers a preview of advanced breeding lines.

Julie Ferguson of Primary Industries and Fisheries said the Better Oilseeds demonstration includes varieties most commonly grown on the Downs.

“We decided to conduct this demonstration as many growers haven’t seen the new varieties. The three new varieties are all suited to culinary end-uses, including tofu, flour and soy milk,” she said.

The site includes the newer varieties Bunya, Fraser and Oakey and the older varieties Asgrow 6785, Soy791, Warrigal and Jabiru.

Water use efficiency is being monitored with an ‘Enviroscan’ probe installed and monitored by the DPI&F Water Use Efficiency team.

“This should provide interesting data on the crop’s water use throughout the growing season and help to develop crop coefficients for soybeans,” she said. Crop coefficients are used with evapotranspiration figures to estimate a crop’s water requirement. This helps irrigators schedule irrigations and estimate the amount of water required.

A key speaker will be Peter Brodie of Philp Brodie Grains to discuss marketing options of this year’s soybean crop with growers.

And CSIRO soybean breeder, Andrew James is not to be missed as he provides insight into new varieties and discusses the CSIRO trial. Eric Robinson of Annand and Robinson will also present information about his company’s breeding work.

Chemical desiccation of soybean crops will also come under the spotlight. Soybean crops often dry intermittently, leading to delays in harvest and green staining of beans. Desiccation provides a means of defoliating crops to allow for timely harvest.

Darling Down soybean grower Dave Scott will provide first-hand knowledge of supplementary irrigation management and dryland soybean growing.

Most soybean crops on the Downs have only received supplementary irrigation this year due to water shortages, while some growers are trying out dryland soybeans for the first time.

“It has been really dry. The site has had nearly 75 mm in-crop rainfall from storms in mid-February, as well as two irrigations. The first was during flowering with 2.1 megalitres per hectare applied, and second was 2.7 megalitres, so it has had three big drinks only,” Ms Ferguson said.

The field day is coordinated by Philp Brodie Grains with the Ziesemer Farming Company and the Ladner family, starting at 7:30 am for breakfast at Ziesemer’s Norwin farm, then moving to Ladner’s property to inspect trials and demonstrations.

For directions and to RSVP, contact Mande Janetzki at Philp Brodie Grains on 07 4690 6400.

Media enquiries: Julie Ferguson QDPI&F, Pittsworth, 07 4693 2486,
julie.ferguson@dpi.qld.gov.au or Ian Morgan, Philp Brodie Grains on 0488 906 407.