



MEDIA RELEASE

Tackling salinity and its linkages in the Mid North landscape

Ensuring sustainable agricultural practices are part of their every day service to landholders will be the focus for Landmark agronomists from the Mid North & Yorke Peninsula region of South Australia, at the Clare Lucerne and Perennial Pasture Workshop on September 15.

The Workshop will provide the latest information on the outstanding benefits in both increased production and the management of natural resources that flow from the introduction of lucerne and perennial pastures.

The Workshop is part of the activity being undertaken by the CRC for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity, Landmark (the commercial partner in the CRC) and state agency partners under the “Promoting salinity solutions through agribusiness” project.

Rural Solutions – SA, a core partner of the CRC, Adrian Dryden – Heritage Seeds and Charles Kidd, Landmark’s R&D Agronomy Manager will deliver sessions to support the CRC’s project.

Understanding the importance of site selection, establishment and management of lucerne and perennial pastures has under-pinned the workshops conducted across southern Australia on behalf of Landmark and the CRC.

The objective of the Workshop programme is to increase the area of lucerne and other perennials in profitable farming systems across southern Australia.

The use of lucerne and other perennials as a rotation in annual cropping programmes has long been practised, but their capacity to fight rising water tables has not been as well understood by landholders. Therefore their introduction not only provides production benefits, but also provides important side benefits for natural resource management.

The workshop will also emphasise the importance of using certified seed to ensure that the plant type is true to the variety labelled and is not a cross of several different varieties. In addition, unwanted weeds will not be introduced and the landholder can expect better seed germination rates.

The success of this project hinges on the relationship Landmark staff have with their clients and the Salinity CRC places great importance on the transfer of information provided by Landmark agronomists.

Steve Watts, Landmark – Agrisystems Agronomist at Clare said the workshop will give Landmark's Mid North and Yorke Peninsula agronomists the opportunity to improve their knowledge in what is an extremely challenging area of agronomy.

“Our farmer clients need to take account of many factors when deciding on their cropping and pasture programmes. Natural resource management is an increasingly important factor and the workshop will ensure Landmark agronomists are right up-to-date with the latest research-based information in this area.”

Further information:

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