

## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Big crowd at Hart's Getting the Crop In

Despite drought conditions in many areas of the state, a full-house of attendees gathered with a thirst for knowledge at the annual Hart Field-Site Group's Getting the Crop In seminar in Clare on Wednesday.

About 130 farmers and consultants attended the event and Hart chair, and Snowtown farmer, Glen Wilkinson said the program reflected the group's consistent drive to provide topical and practical information to growers.

"It really came across that the topics were relevant to what we're facing this season," he said.

"For example, dry sowing couldn't be more relevant, because the way we're looking it's going to be a dry start again.

"And the issue of chemical carryovers – residual chemicals - are going to have a big impact on what we sow and when from here on in."

Speakers at the event covered global and domestic commodity markets, research updates on fusarium root rot in lentils and the impact of dry conditions on crop emergence, highlighting how much moisture is actually required to germinate seed.



The hot topic of Paraquat chemical, its future and possible alternatives generated plenty of interest.

Keynote farmer speaker Jack Owen (pictured left with Hart Chair, Glen Wilkinson) from Mt Emu, Victoria, provided an insight into his entry into farming and transition into a key decision-making role in his farm business.

Jack also spoke of the supports he has in place and some of the

lessons learned, which he has written about in his book *You Are Not Your Farm - What the top 5% of farmers are doing that the average farmer is not.*

Finishing the event, an 'on the couch' session was hosted by Hart executive officer Sandy Kimber, along with a panel of three finance experts – Hood Sweeney accountant Bec Court, National Australia Bank banker Ben Pitt, and Purvis AgriFinance broker Deb Purvis. (Pictured left).



The interactive session busted some myths around their roles and finance, and provided strategies, tools and tips to help farmers thrive through tough times.

Mr Wilkinson said the program fitted together seamlessly and he was impressed by attendees' willingness to learn, despite coming off a poor season.

“My key take-away from our farmer guest speaker, Jack Owen, was to open up and be a bit vulnerable and get your networks in order,” Mr Wilkinson said.

“It was nearly perfectly in line with what our finance panel was discussing, that the only way to get through a tough run like we’re having - and if we end up with another average year – is to recognise that your attitude and your network are going to become even more important to your business.

“So, get those things in order because that's how we're getting through this, with good communication and good networks to help us.”

Hart has a number of upcoming events at the trial site throughout 2025, including the Winter Walk on July 15, Hart Field Day on September 16, and the Spring Twilight Walk on October 21.

