



## Welcome to the February 2024 SPAA enews



### A note from SPAA President, Phil Honey

I hope you and your families had a chance to refresh over the holiday period. For those of you who have felt the blistering heat and extreme weather - our thoughts are with you.

February will be huge with the [GRDC Research Updates](#) being delivered across the regions and the big one - [Evoke Ag](#)- held this year in Perth to a sold-out delegation! Both these events offer a chance to learn, develop new opportunities for collaboration, and encourage out-of-the-box thinking that will drive the future of agriculture.

Internationally, [World FIRA 2024](#) was held earlier this month in France, featuring the latest innovations in agricultural robotics and automation. SPAA committee member Jonathan Medway was lucky enough to attend this world-class event, and we can't wait to hear all about his key learnings soon.

Registrations are now open for the [SPAA Precision Ag Expo 2024](#) which will be held this year in McLaren Vale. The SPAA team will deliver a "double knock" approach by engaging advisors to discuss the research and trends backed up by producers demonstrating their innovation from first-hand experience. The program will be circulated soon, and after a sneak peek, I can hint that it will be a great event!

Another big event on the horizon is the [FutureAG Expo 2024](#) which will be held in Melbourne from 17 to 19 April. This event sits at the echelon of world farming innovation events due to its positioning with Agritechnica <https://www.agritechnica.com/en/> - and is

part of a global network of events conducted by the German Agricultural Society ([Home - DLG-Messen](#)). SPAA is pleased to have recently signed up as a community partner for the event, so keep an eye out for all the details as it comes to hand.

SPAA will hold its AGM on 11 April at the Expo - more details will come soon. However, it's a timely reminder that our team operates with a small staff guided by a national team of volunteer [committee members](#). If you are a SPAA member (or willing to become one) with the capacity to contribute strategically to the adoption and extension of precision agriculture in Australia, please contact our Executive Officer Angelique McAvoy for a chat.

And finally, look at this great video from an [Autonomous Farming Vehicle Demonstration Day](#) held by Sugar Research Australia in Budekin. Hear from growers and industry experts on the advantages of using autonomous vehicles for growing sugar cane.



**Phil Honey - SPAA President**

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[Become a member today](#)

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Precision Ag Expo 2024 **McLaren Vale**  
Join us in McLaren Vale on 11 April 2024



# Precision Ag Expo 2024

McLaren Vale  
Function Centre SA  
Thursday 11 April 2024  
8.45 am to 6.30 pm



Join us in **beautiful McLaren Vale** on 11 April for the SPAA Precision Ag Expo 2024.

This year's Expo includes a host of topics in the precision ag space, together with industry exhibitors and plenty of opportunity for networking. The event is fully catered and is followed by Sundowner refreshments after the formal proceedings.

Content includes:

- Precision Ag innovation in wine and horticulture
- Robotics fundamentals and how to start
- Managing your land from a precision ag perspective
- Precision weeding
- Soil climate; plant climate; management climate
- Prescription mapping & on-farm experimentation
- A producer panel on where PA is heading and machine automation.

If you would like to attend, consider becoming a SPAA member. As a member you receive a host of benefits as well as the **member registration discount** to the Expo.

The 2024 Precision Ag Expo also offers excellent opportunities for exhibitors to display your offerings and liaise with Expo attendees.

Click on the Expo details link below for more information, together with membership and registration links and a link to the Expo prospectus.

## [Expo details](#)



The Inaugural **FutureAg Expo Powered by Agritechnica** hits Melbourne Showgrounds on April 17-19.

Immerse yourself in a series of enlightening conference sessions featuring renowned speakers, industry leaders, and subject matter experts.

Register Now at: <https://futureagexpo.com.au/2024-pricing-registration>

## Precision Ag News **ARTICLE - InFocus** Grape growers shape spatial approaches to trials



From Precision Ag News, Summer 2023. Dr Xinxin Song from the TIA at University of Tasmania reported on the value of using precision ag tools in spatial approaches to on-farm trials for grape growers.

Through case studies undertaken in collaboration with growers and consultants, Dr Xinxin Song writes about how spatial approaches to on-farm trials that use precision ag (PA) tools can address issues associated with time, labour, and spatial variability.

Access to PA news is a key benefit of being a member. SPAA members have a choice of receiving PA News every quarter, either online or printed via post. If you would like to become a member, [find out more here](#).

[Click here](#) to read the article.



## Grains Research Updates

Aimed at agronomists, consultants, researchers and growers. These GRDC events provide the opportunity to hear and discuss with their peers, about application of new and relevant information to local farming systems.

Commencing February 2024 – find one near you. [Details](#)



# Survey: Grain Producer Policy Priorities 2024

A message from Barry Large, Chair of Grain Producers Australia. 'Grain Producers Australia is seeking your views on current priorities, to help inform our policy and advocacy for grain producers, in 2024. Please complete this short survey and tell us what's important to your grain producing business'.

A link to the survey is [HERE](#)

'This will ensure we can better influence government and decision-makers with strong policy and advocacy activities, in the best interests of growers and our industry's future. Completing this survey will also make you eligible to win a GPA hat and shirt'.

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## Agritech Meetup



**Agritech Meetup SA**

When  
• Friday February 23rd @ 4pm

Where - Stone & Chalk  
• Stone & Chalk  
• Lot 14, North Tce Adelaide

Meetup with international start-ups +  
evokeAG wrap up



Thanks Agribusiness Australia and AgriFutures evokeAG  
Who have partnered with us to deliver this meetup



Bringing together developers, farmers and other stakeholders in the Ag industry, to collaboratively look at opportunities and solutions for technology to help make agriculture more productive, profitable and sustainable.

Following on from [evokeAg](#) 2024 (20 and 21 February in Perth) Agritech Meetup has an event in Adelaide on 23 February that you may be interested in attending:

[Click here](#) for details

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## Farm Gross Margin Guide for SA Crop and Livestock



The 2024 guide incorporates the latest information on input and output pricing to give estimates of the relative profitability of different farm enterprises, as an aid to decision making in enterprise selection.

A unique guide that provides gross margin analysis for both crops and livestock enterprises across the range of South Australian rainfall zones.

The Farm Gross Margin and Enterprise Planning Guide for South Australia is produced by the Ag Excellence Alliance with support from SAGIT (the South Australian Grains Industry Trust) and SIF (the Sheep Industry Fund)

[Click here](#) for details and to download the guide.

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## Grants and other opportunities



### TEKLAB Grains Pathway

GRDC and Farmers2Founders have partnered to deliver the TEKLAB Grains pathway of programs designed to accelerate grains-focused Agtech concepts.

[Click here](#) for details

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## Ag Events & Field Days 2024

### February

**GRDC Grains Research Updates**, commencing February, various locations. [Details](#)

### March

**ABARES Outlook 2024**, 5 and 6 March, Canberra. [Details](#)

**AgSmart Connect**, 6 and 7 March, Tamworth. [Details](#)

**Wagin Woolorama**, 8 and 9 March, Wagin WA. [Details](#)

**South East Field Days**, 15 and 16 March, Lucindale, SA. [Details](#)

**World Future Farming Forum**, 21 March, Amsterdam. [Details](#)

**Farmworld**, 22 to 24 March, Lardner Park, Victoria. [Details](#)



**Sydney Royal Easter Show**, 22 March to 2 April, Sydney Showgrounds. [Details](#)

## **April**

**East Gippsland Field Days**, 5 and 6 April. Bairnsdale Aerodrome. [Details](#)

**Karoonda Farm Fair**, 5 and 6 April. Karoonda, SA. [Details](#)

**Balingup Small Farm Experience**, 6 April. Balingup, WA. [Details](#)

**SPAA Precision Ag Expo 2024**, 11 April. McLaren Vale, South Australia. [Details](#)

**Seymour Alternative Farming Expo**, 12 to 14 April, Seymour, Victoria. [Details](#)

**National Diesel, Dirt & Turf Expo**, 12 to 15 April. Eastern Creek, Sydney. [Details](#)

**FutureAG**, 17 to 19 April. Melbourne Showgrounds. [Details](#)

**Toowoomba Royal Show**, 18 to 20 April. Toowoomba Showgrounds. [Details](#)

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## **Partner News**

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**HARDI**  
Your Partner in Crop Protection

# Save up to **90%** on chemical costs with **GEOSelect**

**GEOSelect**

**The GeoSelect Difference**

- ▶ 99.7% hit rate
- ▶ Centimetre accurate targeting
- ▶ 90% Chemical Savings
- ▶ Decoupled System
- ▶ Minimal On-boom Hardware
- ▶ Pre-determine mixing quantities prior to spraying
- ▶ Future-proofed (Green-an-Green, Satellite Scanning)
- ▶ Self-Propelled and Trailed Sprayers

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## **GeoSelect: Eliminating Guesswork from Selective Spraying**

HARDI Australia has been a pioneer in technological advancements for Australian farmers, introducing a groundbreaking solution to the enduring agricultural challenge of weed control. GeoSelect is a new system which enables centimetre perfect herbicide application and can reduce costs by as much as 90 percent.

Geoselect is a decoupled system using remotely-sensed data from drones or fixed-wing aircraft for precise weed identification down to the centimeter, unlike traditional sprayers with attached cameras on a boom.

The HARDI patented “perpixel” processing algorithm can then tell farmers precisely how much chemical they will need before they start spraying.

Geoselect features higher resolution cameras for enhanced precision compared to current prescription map versions.

Integration of four GPS receivers on the boom ensures spraying accuracy equivalent to drone-captured data.

Geoselect operates at a plant-based precision level rather than an area-based level, marking a significant capability advancement. Gateway-enabled machines allow HARDI technicians to remotely access and observe farmers' operations in real-time, providing technical assistance.

HARDI recently concluded trials for its ongoing green-on-green initiative. Discussions are underway with a company in Adelaide that conducted aerial surveys of some paddocks using a hyperspectral camera, presenting a novel approach for HARDI.

"The results are pending, but we're genuinely enthusiastic about the potential outcomes. This endeavor promises to add a new dimension to our green-on-green season," remarked Heath Thompson, HARDI's Innovation Manager.

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[Become a member today](#)

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