

BEEN FARMING LONG?

A WORKSHOP SERIES FOR
EARLY CAREER FARMERS



Australian Government

National
Landcare
Program



AIMS

Provide the knowledge & tools needed to farm sustainably & profitably

Build support networks, both with peers, advisors & the industry more broadly

ELIGIBILITY

Farmers with 0-8 year's farming experience
(not necessarily 'young' farmers)





2017

30 participants

4 modules

2019

30 participants

8 modules

Current

26 participants

6 modules

MODULES

- Plant growth
- Soils & nutrition
- Weeds & herbicides
- Insect identification
- On-farm grain storage
- Spraying & sprayer set-up
- Disease
- Succession planning
- Grain marketing
- The business of farming





FORMAT

A combination of:

- workshop style
- in-field
- hands-on, practical activities
- farm tours

Delivered by:

- specialist guest presenters
- facilitated by Hart

CURRENT STRUCTURE

- ½ day workshops (arvo)
- Networking drinks (1 hr)
- Dinner (includes a farmer guest speaker)




ON AN ISLAND IN THE CARIBBEAN...



What are we doing well...?

- Communication & building relationships
- Providing opportunities for incidental learning
(work health & safety, sound business advice, strategies for good decision making)
- Providing follow-up information & resources
- Listening to feedback & acting on it
(more beers!)

A photograph of four men standing in a barn, looking at a large yellow CLAAS harvester. The man on the far left is wearing a blue and yellow beanie with 'BMW' on it. The man in the center is wearing a blue and white striped sweater. The man on the far right is wearing a dark jacket and a blue beanie. The harvester has 'CLAAS' written on its side in red. The background shows the interior of a barn with corrugated metal walls and a green container on a pallet to the right.

What are the challenges & what have we learned...?

- Delivering content at the right level
(requires lots of listening & excellent planning & communication with guest presenters)
- Timing is everything!
(set dates and get buy-in early, avoid busy times on farm)

A group of people, mostly men, are gathered outdoors at night. They are wearing winter clothing like jackets, hats, and boots. Some are sitting on chairs, while others are standing. In the background, there is a building with a red door and a sign that says "HART". The scene is dimly lit, with some light coming from the building and possibly from a camera flash.

Surprising outcomes...?

- The strength of the bond between our participants
(they are all very keen to stay together as a group & keep learning)
- The enthusiasm and support of the program shown by guest speakers; researchers, industry & farmers alike
- How much WE have enjoyed working on this!

THE C WORD...

- Providing a safe space to share information & learn from each other
- Utilising the immense range of skills and experience available to us; researchers, advisors, industry & farmers
- Expanding networks; our participants and our own!
- Maintaining excellent communication



THE NEXT STEP

- Engage with a new group of early career farmers through additional funding
- Explore ways to maintain our current group
- Expand beyond the Mid-North with new partners

**PLEASE COME & CHAT IF YOU'D LIKE
TO TALK ABOUT PARTNERING WITH US**

HART FIELD DAY

September 20



QUESTIONS?

Sandy Kimber

Executive Officer

Hart Field-Site Group

admin@hartfieldsite.org.au

0427 423 154

