

# GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE 2026



**ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA  
TUESDAY 3RD AND WEDNESDAY 4TH  
FEBRUARY 2026**

**Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace**

**Discuss the latest farm-ready information to improve profit with  
researchers, agronomists and leading growers at the Adelaide  
GRDC Grains Research Update.**

# GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE

# 2026

## Day 1 Program

8.15am registration for a 9.00am start - 5.15pm

### LIVESTREAM AVAILABLE

The Hall C program will be available via a free livestream. See back page for registration details.

### PLENARY PRESENTATIONS



GUEST SPEAKER  
**MATTHEW KNOWLING**

#### Tracking profit and risk of farming systems in the southern region

Matthew will focus on how crop sequence and farming practices impact profitability and sustainability across diverse environments. He will share insights from the flagship GRDC Farming Systems South project, which uses field trials, biophysical modelling, and economic analysis to evaluate crop sequences, nitrogen strategies, and emerging systems, highlighting trade-offs between profit, soil health, greenhouse gas emissions, and risk. The session will also explore how response trials and decision-support tools help growers adapt to climate variability and more informed choices for long-term resilience.



#### Celebrating 30 years of GRDC updates

##### Members - Jon Lamb, Allan Mayfield and Richard Konzag

This panel will honour the legacy of the GRDC Updates as a cornerstone event for knowledge sharing in the grains industry. Panelists will reflect on how the Updates have connected researchers, advisers, and growers over three decades, driving innovation and adoption across the southern region. The discussion will celebrate the event's impact on collaboration and learning, while looking ahead to how Updates will continue to evolve to meet future challenges.



GUEST SPEAKER  
**PETER BOUTSALIS**

#### Industry panel - converting herbicide resistance test report into effective paddock actions

This panel will explore how herbicide resistance testing can be transformed into practical strategies for growers. Topics include insights from recent weed surveys, trends in sample submission, and how agronomists use resistance data to guide their management decisions and advice to growers. The discussion will focus on turning complex test results into clear, actionable steps that help combat resistance and maintain long-term weed control.

### CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

- **Advances in spray technology and management in North American farming systems.**  
*Tom Wolf, Agrimetrix Research and Training*
- **Benchmarking 'good' farm decision making: earned reward or dumb luck?** *Brendan Brown, CSIRO*
- **When to say 'no' to lentils in the low rainfall zone.**  
*Penny Roberts (MSF) and Jeff Braun (The Agronomist)*
- **Cereal diseases – latest developments and trends.**  
*Tara Garrard and Hari Dadu, SARDI*
- **Managing the triple resistant mutant of Net Form Net Blotch.** *Darcy Warren, FAR*
- **Spatial variation and seasonal stability of rhizoctonia root rot.** *Gupta Vadakattu, CSIRO*
- **Crops differ in their tolerance to high strength soils.**  
*Nigel Wilhelm, SARDI*
- **Hyper-yielding lentils, lessons from season one.**  
*Lachlan Lake, SARDI*
- **Quick fire panel – weed detection options (satellite, camera, drones).** *Tim Neale (Data Farming), David Keetch (Nufarm) and Tristain Steventon (Stev Tech)*
- **Pulse diseases – latest developments and trends.**  
*Hari Dadu and Mohsen Khani, SARDI*
- **Pulse root disease – what are the issues and what are our options?** *Blake Gontar, SARDI*
- **Profitable cereal yield frontiers: season responsive strategies to capture upside.** *Kenton Porker, CSIRO*
- **Introducing GRDC's sustainability initiatives.** *GRDC representative*
- **Beneficial insects to aid pest control.**  
*Lilia Jenkins, Cesar Australia*
- **Cycling and losses of N in the southern cropping system.**  
*Roger Armstrong, Agriculture Victoria*
- **PhD – using deep learning to understand the 3D structure of wheat roots in soil.** *Harriyatal Fitriyah, University of South Australia*
- **PhD – impacts of soil modification on roots and the rhizosphere.**  
*Stephen Lang, University of Adelaide*

Networking drinks and food  
in the trade display area  
courtesy of AGT 5.15pm-6.45pm



## FAT FARMERS RIVER RUN

For those interested on day 2, join the Fat Farmers team directly in front of the Convention Centre on the Riverbank Lawns (see map, orange line) for an early morning 4.5km run. 6.15am meet for a 6.30am start.

# Day 2 Program

9.00am to 3.00pm

## PLENARY PRESENTATIONS



GUEST SPEAKER  
**TIM  
NEALE**

### The 'Autonomous Agronomist'

Tim will explore how automation and digital technologies are transforming crop management. He will discuss the use of sensors, artificial intelligence, and satellite imagery to detect weeds, diseases, pests and nutrition issues, and how this data can be integrated with autonomous machinery for targeted interventions. Additionally, Tim will outline the role of drones, data fusion, and AI-driven recommendations in shaping the future of agronomy and how these innovations will change the agronomist's role over time.



GUEST SPEAKER  
**CHRIS  
PRESTON**

### The future of the double knock

Chris will present on emerging strategies for managing glyphosate and paraquat-resistant annual ryegrass, drawing on findings from 2025 field trials. He will explore the potential of glufosinate and novel herbicides as alternatives or enhancements to the traditional double knock approach. The focus will be on evaluating the efficacy of these options, their role in resistance management, and their compatibility with current cropping systems.

## CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS

- **Canola establishment – insights to improve results.**  
*Kenton Porker, CSIRO*
- **Improved detection and management of herbicide residues in soil.**  
*Mick Rose, Southern Cross University*
- **Capeweed management in lentils – post emergent solutions and tactics.**  
*Michael Brougham, Brougham Ag*
- **Efficacy loss of neonicotinoid seed treatments on green peach aphids – implications moving forward.**  
*Paul Umina, Cesar Australia*
- **Overcoming iron deficiency in lentils and beans.**  
*Nigel Wilhelm, SARDI*
- **Gazania incidence and impact on cropping in the southern region.**  
*Ali Bajwa, La Trobe University*
- **Setting up for success – reaching and sustaining yield potential in ameliorated sands.**  
*Therese McBeath, CSIRO*
- **The ins and outs of fungicide resistance**  
*Alec McCallum, University of Melbourne*
- **Is Goyder's Line shifting south?**  
*Peter Hayman, SARDI*
- **Improved fertiliser management of potassium.**  
*Sam Trengove, Trengove Consulting*
- **New and emerging markets for pulses.**  
*Mary Raynes, AEGIC*

Barista coffee cart courtesy of ADAMA

# GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE 2026

## Event Details

### REGISTRATION OPTIONS

**Cost:**      **\$130** one-day inc. GST      **\$200** two-days inc. GST

**Student:**   **\$80** one-day inc. GST      **\$120** two-days inc. GST

**Grower:**    **Free**

**Hall C livestream - Free, register here**

**Click here to register and pay online**

### Cancellation

Cancellations prior to **30 January 2026** will receive a full refund.

**There will be no refunds for cancellations received on or after this date.**

Registration is transferable at any time, contact ORM.

### Car parking

Parking is available at the North Terrace and Riverbank car parks.

### Catering

Food and beverages are provided throughout the day.

### Program

Topics and speakers are subject to change.

The final program will be provided and made available via the GRDC website in January 2026.

### Industry supporters

Opportunities for industry supporters are available. For details contact [bev@orm.com.au](mailto:bev@orm.com.au)

### Contact details

For enquiries, contact ORM Pty Ltd on 03 5441 6176 or email [admin@orm.com.au](mailto:admin@orm.com.au)