GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE 2026

GRDC
GRAINS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Cummins Community Sports Club
72 Bruce Terrace, Cummins

Wednesday 29 July 2026

Registration:
9.00 am to 1.00 pm followed by lunch
(doors open at 8.30 am for a 9.00 am start)

Cost:
Free

Morning tea, lunch and proceedings included.

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

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

Topics:

- Mice: reduce feed supply and improve control
  Ben White, BM White
- Cycling and losses of N in the southern cropping system
  Nigel Wilhelm, SARDI
- Protect your most perishable asset – latest tips on grain storage
  Ben White, BM White
- Get best bang for buck on canola fungicides
  Angela Van de Wouw, University of Melbourne
- Pulse root disease – what are the issues and what are our options?
  Blake Gontar, SARDI

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Mice: reduce feed supply and improve control

Mouse populations are closely linked to food availability, particularly grain left behind after harvest. Ben will focus on how header losses contribute to feed supply over summer and drive mouse numbers. The session will also cover how lowering feed availability improves the effectiveness of baiting programs, helping growers take a more proactive and integrated approach to mouse control.

Cycling and losses of N in the southern cropping system

Nitrogen is a major driver of yield, but losses from the farming system can reduce both efficiency and profitability. Nigel will explain how nitrogen cycles through cropping systems and where losses commonly occur. The session will focus on practical strategies to improve nitrogen use efficiency, helping growers better retain applied nitrogen, reduce waste and make more reliable fertiliser decisions.

Protect your most perishable asset – latest tips on grain storage

Grain storage is an evolving space. Chris will cover the latest understanding around best on-farm grain storage, focusing on practical and proven management. Topics will include the main risks to stored grain such as insects, moisture, temperature and poor sealing, along with obtaining airtight storage and correct phosphine fumigation. The session will emphasise preparation, monitoring and early intervention, helping growers protect grain quality and avoid costly mistakes.

Get best bang for buck on canola fungicides

Fungicide decisions in canola can be costly, and returns are highly dependent on timing, disease pressure and seasonal conditions. Angela will explore getting the most value from fungicide by timing application to most likely deliver a return on investment. The presentation will also highlight the role of variety and integrated management approaches to help growers make more confident, cost-effective decisions.

Pulse root disease – what are the issues and what are our options?

Pulse root diseases are a constraint to yield across the southern farming system. Blake will outline the main root diseases affecting pulse crops, how they develop, and the conditions that increase risk. The session will focus on practical management options, including crop rotation, variety choice and paddock selection, helping growers reduce risk.

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