

# GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE 2026



Bar Lounge, Dookie College  
940 Dookie-Nalinga Road, Dookie

**Thursday 23 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)

University of Melbourne welcome you to a  
crop walk post-event starting at 2pm

**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 Dookie GRDC Grains  
Research Update.

**Topics:**

- Risk and reward of N fertiliser decision-making strategies - insights from a national network of RiskWi\$e field experiments  
*James Hunt, University of Melbourne*
- Industry panel – pushing pulses for better crops in the north  
*Audrey Delahunty (Agriculture Victoria), Aaron Vague (FAR) and Tom Price (FAR)*
- Protect your most perishable asset – latest tips on grain storage  
*Chris Warrick, Primary Business*
- Get best bang for buck on canola fungicides  
*Alec McCallum, University of Melbourne*
- Profitable yield frontiers  
*James Manson, CSIRO*

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## Risk and reward of N fertiliser decision-making strategies - insights from a national network of RiskWi\$e field experiments

Nitrogen decisions are critical to both yield and profit, yet remain one of the hardest inputs to manage. James will draw on GRDC RiskWi\$e research to explore how different nitrogen strategies perform over time. He will focus on making decisions that are 'more right more often'. The presentation will highlight how to balance profit and risk, and how tools can be used to review and improve decision-making over the long term.



## Industry panel – pushing pulses for better crops in the north

Pulse crops are being pushed into more unfamiliar environments as growers look to diversify rotations and manage weeds, disease and nitrogen. This panel brings together local research and hands-on agronomic experience to discuss the opportunities and challenges of growing pulses in the north east. Panel members will share insights into crop selection, agronomy, seasonal risk and paddock suitability, as well as lessons learned from recent seasons. The discussion will focus on what has worked, what hasn't, and what growers should consider when contemplating a new pulse or expanding their current program.



## 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. Alec will explore how to get the most value from fungicide use by focusing on when application is likely to deliver a return on investment. The presentation will also highlight the role of variety choice and integrated management approaches to help growers make more confident, cost-effective decisions.



## Profitable yield frontiers

Many growers know there is more yield in the paddock, but less clarity around what is actually worth chasing. James will present findings from the GRDC Profitable Yield Frontiers project, exploring why yields often fall short of what is agronomically possible. He will explain the concept of the profitable yield frontier and highlight the main causes of yield gaps, including how small constraints add up.

