

GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE 2026



Streaky Bay Community Complex
Wells Street, Streaky Bay

Thursday 30 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 Streaky Bay GRDC Grains Research Update.

Topics:

- **Mice: reduce feed supply and improve control**
Ben White, BM White
- **Cycling and losses of N in cropping systems**
Nigel Wilhelm, SARDI
- **Protect your most perishable asset**
– latest tips on grain storage
Ben White, BM White
- **Crop flowering calculator, an online tool to optimise sowing date for wheat, barley and canola**
Jeremy Whish, CSIRO
- **Pulse root disease**
– what are the issues and what are our options?
Blake Gontar, SARDI

GRAINS RESEARCH UPDATE

2026

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 cropping systems

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.



Crop flowering calculator, an online tool to optimise sowing date for wheat, barley and canola

Matching crop flowering to the optimal window is critical for maximizing yield and avoiding frost and heat stress. Jeremy will introduce the Crop Flowering Calculator, an online decision support tool designed to help growers select the best sowing for wheat, barley and canola. The session will focus on how growers can use this tool alongside local knowledge to improve sowing decisions and optimise crop performance.



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.

