

## Farewell to Jacqui...



Jacqui Johnstone left FAR in October after more than 10 years in the role of Research Manager. Jacqui was FAR's second employee and has seen a lot change as FAR has established itself and grown over the years. Mainly responsible for the cereals and pulses research programmes, her work involved liaising with farmers, industry and researchers, checking protocols and reports and helping with information transfer. She was a key member of the cereal cultivar evaluation programme and has represented FAR in many fora. Jacqui also helped establish many of the systems under which FAR now operates, including the database and accounting systems.

Jacqui says the decision to leave FAR was a difficult one as she enjoyed her work, the experiences gained and the people she met. She hopes to continue with project management working independently from home and would also like to try "something different" although she's not quite sure what that is yet!

FAR will miss her!

...and a warm welcome to David, Richard and Rachel.

We are delighted to welcome on board David Geary and Richard Chynoweth as Project Managers and Rachel Greenwood as Communications Manager.

David joins us from PGG Seeds where he was Territory Manager for the Southern South Island. He was involved in advising clients on pastoral practices as well as managing

the wholesale business. Prior to that he worked as Cultivar Manager for Crop and Food Research where he was involved in plant variety rights, royalties, contracts, budgeting and marketing.



David's wealth of knowledge will be a great asset in developing ongoing research projects for cereals, irrigation and cultivar evaluations. David will also be on hand to share his knowledge with growers at FAR workshops, field days, conferences and discussion sessions. *Contact: gearyd@far.org.nz*

Richard joins us from PGG Wrightson Research where he worked as a Seed Production Agronomist. Richard has a wealth of both practical and theoretical experience across all crops including nucleus seed production, operating seed production trials, technical extension and day-to-day crop management.



Richard will be responsible for managing ongoing research in the areas of herbage seed and vegetable seed amongst other crops, concentrating on issues such as pollination, bee activity and nitrogen. *Contact: chynowethr@far.org.nz*

Rachel recently relocated to New Zealand from the UK where she worked as Communications Manager for a range of industry organisations.



A farmer's daughter herself, Rachel has knowledge of the agricultural industry sector; and that combined with her communications skills will be responsible for delivering FAR's key messages throughout the arable industry and beyond. *Contact: greenwoodr@far.org.nz*

## Other Members of the FAR Team



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## Dates for your Diary

15 - 16 February 2006

### FAR Maize Conference 2006

Location: Mystery Creek Events Centre, Hamilton  
Dates: 15 February 2006-16 February 2006  
Contact: Rachel Greenwood  
Ph: 03 325 6353 or 021 960 058

21 - 23 February 2006

### Maize Association of Australia (MAA) Triennial Conference 2006

Location: Griffith, NSW, Australia  
Dates: 21 February 2006-23 February 2006  
Contact: www.maizeaustralia.com.au

## Members of the FAR Board

STUART WRIGHT (Chairman)  
Northern South Island  
03 318 3897

RUSSELL FLEMING  
Southern North Island  
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HOWARD CLARKE  
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03 236 9825

KERRY DOWIE  
Appointed Industry Representative  
09 379 1753

JIM MCARTNEY (Deputy Chairman)  
Herbage Seed Subsection FF

DAVID GRANT  
Mid Canterbury  
03 302 8580

JOHN WRIGHT  
United Wheatgrowers  
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Appointed Industry Representative  
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ARABLE RESEARCH

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# no.44 Newsletter

December 2005

## Arable Site Major Open Day – A Growing Success!

The rain didn't dampen things too much this year with more than 250 attendees at our second FAR Arable Site Major Open Day on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Cropping specialists travelled great distances to be with us this year to offer expert advice to New Zealand growers and industry representatives.

Dr Vic Jordan is Director of Soil Management Initiative, UK. Dr Jordan, an expert in tillage practice in soils, spoke of how farmers could reduce tillage costs by adopting less intensive cultivation techniques. Dr Jordan explained that whilst bare soil at planting was appealing to the eye, the use of multiple cultivation passes was not necessary in order to achieve uniform plant establishment. He told growers that reduced tillage systems used appropriately could not only lower grower's costs, but also improve soil health.

Dr Paul Horne of IPM Technologies, Australia, shared his knowledge of an ongoing research project known as 'slugs – eat or be eaten'. This project is an initiative of FAR which will take advantage of current research work on the issues of slugs in Australia. The aim is to use the knowledge gained in Australia in order to establish new integrated pest management control strategies which can be implemented here in New Zealand.

Also in attendance was Dr René Gislum from the Danish Institute of Sciences, Department of Genetics and Biotechnology. Dr Gislum shared his knowledge of nitrogen in ryegrass and seed crops.

In addition to our guest speakers, attendees also had the opportunity to choose from a further 12 topics which they felt were most relevant to their areas of interest. These were delivered by representatives from AgResearch, Crop & Food Research, NZ Arable, Telecom and FAR.

It is our aim to constantly look at ways of improving our field days; we would therefore welcome any comments you may have which can be emailed through to Rachel Greenwood at [greenwoodr@far.org.nz](mailto:greenwoodr@far.org.nz)

Copies of the information handed out on the day are available at [www.far.org.nz](http://www.far.org.nz).

We would like to remind you that in addition to our open days, the Chertsey site is available for farmers to visit at their leisure where they can compare trials under both irrigated and un-irrigated conditions. Handbooks are available on site (inside the front gate), which, in conjunction with detailed labeling of plots, will allow farmers to follow the progress of our individual trials.



We would like to thank the sponsors of the FAR Arable Site for their ongoing support:



## FAR Maize Conference

### "Incredible Maize – the plant of the future"

On the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> February 2006, the third FAR Maize Conference will be held at Mystery Creek Events Centre, Hamilton. It is three years since FAR successfully ran its last Maize Conference which was attended by over 320 delegates. The current programme consists of two full days, broken up with three field visits. We will be hosting a great range of speakers, several from overseas, who will be speaking on topics ranging through biofuels, genetics, crop agronomy, silage production and more.

Our keynote speaker will be Prof. Scott Shearer from the University of Kentucky, USA. Scott works on a number of projects within the Faculty for Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering. Scott will be focusing on Precision Agriculture and its application to maize production. Scott has vast experience in GPS units, variable rate fertiliser and spraying systems and soil monitoring applications.

Prof. Bob Nielsen, from Purdue University in Indiana, has been extremely popular with NZ maize growers and will again join us to discuss the latest research findings with

respect to crop production and agronomy. Bob has visited our shores twice before and is familiar with the opportunities and challenges our maize growers face. Bob holds great respect throughout the USA for his work done on maize production and extension.

Joining us from Canada will be Dr Francis Glenn, who is a plant breeder with his own company. Francis will be providing an overview of current breeding strategies and potential new market opportunities that may arise from these breeding programmes.

We are also fortunate to have secured Paul Higgins from New South Wales, Australia. Paul has a plethora of roles not least of which is Chairman of the Australian Pork Board. Paul has a consulting company which is currently in the process of evaluating Australia's opportunity when it comes to ethanol production, which is being partly funded by the GRDC. Paul will be reviewing the current international status of ethanol and production capabilities.

Registrations will be out in mid-December for next year's event. We have had great support for sponsorship which will allow us to keep registration costs to a minimum. Registration will also be available through our website.

## Levy Rate for 2006

Please note, the levy rate for maize has decreased from the 2005 level. FAR is required under the Arable Levy Order to set levy rates annually. This has been done in consultation with members of Arable Research Groups.

In accordance with the Commodity Levies (Arable Crops) Order 2000, the Foundation for Arable Research has determined the rate of the levies for 2006 to be:

- Maize (including cribbed maize and popcorn) – 0.4% of sale value;
- Herbage and amenity seed – 0.8% of assessed value;
- All other grain and seed crops (cereals, pulses, brassicas etc) – 0.8% of sale value.
- Specialist vegetable seeds (such as hybrid brassicas, carrot, onion, celery, beet), – 0.8% of an assessed value in relation to value and seed.

These levy rates will be reviewed again in 12 months time. New levy return forms for 2006 will be delivered to merchants in December.

The deduction of the 5% commission is optional. Some companies are choosing not to deduct this commission and look on that as their contribution to research. We are very appreciative of their support.

**Please note:** United Wheatgrowers' wheat insurance levy is collected at the same time as the FAR levy. Their rate for 2006 has changed to \$3.25 + GST per tonne.

Any queries, please contact FAR:

Ph: 03 325 6353  
Fax: 03 325 6354  
Email: [far@far.org.nz](mailto:far@far.org.nz)

## FAR Researcher of the Year



Congratulations to Matthew Cromey of the Sustainable Productive Environments' Team at Lincoln, on being named the inaugural FAR Researcher of the Year.

This award recognises Matthew's long-term contribution to the arable industries through his work on cereals in general, but particularly stripe rust, fusarium head blight and didymella.

Matthew's research has both provided new basic knowledge and understanding of cereal diseases as well as providing practical disease management solutions for arable farmers. Matthew's work is internationally recognised and he is currently working with Australian researchers on validating new detection systems for soil-borne pathogens.

## Keep the Learning Alive

FAR is approached by a number of students who wish to come on board throughout the summer months to gain practical experience to help further develop their skills out in the field.

This year we're delighted to welcome on board Alex McConway and David Catherwood who will be working closely with our Project Managers on trials around Canterbury, focusing on how to improve yields and the pollination of clover and carrot crops.



## Funding Round

Each year the Sustainable Farming Fund provides up to \$9.5 million in grants for projects that contribute to the on-going economic, environmental and social wellbeing of the country's primary producers.

MAF Sustainable Farming Fund (SFF) is now calling for applications for funding for projects beginning in the 2006/07 season. Applications close 13 February 2006.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for projects, please contact the FAR office.



## Books For Sale

We have a number of books that we are slashing the price on, please get your order in early as we have limited stocks available.

**The Drying and Storage of Grain and Herbage Seeds** (was \$35.00) now \$20.00 inc GST.

This book published by FAR, is an essential guide for every farmer, especially those with a drier. Subjects include principles of drying and the drying system, the storage environment and its control, pests, diseases and mycotoxins.

**On Farm Trial Booklets**

(were \$40.00 a set) now \$20.00 a set inc GST. The set includes seven booklets: Reference Book, Fungicide Application Trials, Fertiliser Application Trials, Alternative

Tillage Trials, Plant Population Trials, Fertiliser Rate Trials and Tips for Crops.

**Target on Establishment and Visual Soil Assessment** \$15.00 inc GST. Published by Soil Management Initiative UK.

Please contact the FAR office, an invoice will be sent out with the book(s).



## FAR Projects underway in the 2005/06 season

The following lists the research currently underway throughout NZ. Some projects are a single, one-year trial while others are multiple-site two or three year projects. Most are solely FAR funded while some of the larger projects have additional external funding, especially those with MAF SFF funding. If you would like more information on anything listed here, please contact FAR, quoting the project code.

PROJECT CODE	TITLE	LOCATION
C03/01-3	SFF Takeall sampling 03/04	Southland, Canterbury
C04/13-3	SFF Grazing of the wheat grain crop	Canterbury
C05/01	Herbicides for volunteer Italian ryegrass control (in wheat) (Arable Hub)	Canterbury
C05/02	Effect of terbuthylazine on wheat seed depth (Arable Site)	Arable Site
C05/03	AB fungicide programmes - less susceptible cultivar (Arable hub)	Canterbury
C05/04	Arable Site Fungicide programmes - More susceptible autumn sown barley (cv. Optic)	Arable Site
C05/05	Fungicide programmes - more susceptible wheat (South of Timaru)	Canterbury
C05/06	Arable Site - Nitrogen timing influence on 1st & continuous wheat	Arable Site
C05/07	Arable Site Fungicide programmes - More susceptible wheat (cv. Savannah)	Arable Site
C05/08	Arable Site - Soil moisture x fungicide interaction - wheat	Arable Site
C05/09	Arable Site - Nitrogen timings to maximise protein & yield in wheat (cv. Amarak)	Arable Site
C05/09a	Nitrogen and Sulphur for protein and yield on Vanquish and Amarak	Canterbury
C05/09b	Nitrogen response in feed wheat	Canterbury
C05/10	Wheat seed vigour interactions	Canterbury
C05/11	Spring barley (cv. Optic) fungicide programmes (Arable Site)	Arable Site
C05/12	Spring barley nitrogen timing	Arable Site
C05/13a	New molecule rate profiling in winter wheat	Canterbury
C05/13b	New molecule rate profiling in winter wheat	Canterbury
C05/14	Wheat nitrogen timing x fungicide interaction (Arable Hub)	Canterbury
C05/16a	Arable Site Fungicide programmes - less susceptible wheat	Arable Site
C05/16b	Fungicide programmes - less susceptible wheat (South Canterbury)	Canterbury
C05/17	Oat management - Southland	Southland
C05/18	Diseases and disease resistance	Southland, Canterbury, Manawatu

### Cereals

### Herbage

H05/01	Italian Ryegrass Time of Sowing	Canterbury
H05/02	Carbohydrate sources in grass seed - physiology	Completed
H05/03	Arable Site - White clover herbicide screening trial	Arable Site
H05/04	Arable Site - White clover growers demonstration	Arable Site
H05/05	Influence of Moddus on Seed germination	Canterbury
H05/06	Turf ryegrass (cv. Divine) fungicide programmes (Arable Site)	Arable Site
H05/07	Ryegrass systems trial (Arable Site)	Arable Site
H05/08	Italian ryegrass closing dates trial (Arable Site)	Arable Site
H05/09	Controlling cereal volunteers in ryegrass (Arable Site)	Arable Site
H05/10	N rates for Italian and perennial ryegrass	Canterbury
H05/11	Nitrogen soil levels and rates - ryegrass	Canterbury
H05/12-3	SFF Taking the risk out of growing clover	Canterbury
H05/13	Proline rate profiling - Turf ryegrass cv. Divine (Arable Site)	Canterbury
H05/14	Management of 2nd year white clover	Canterbury
H05/15	Carbohydrate fractions from different plant organs	Canterbury
H05/16	South Canterbury Grass Seed crops - benchmarking	Canterbury
H05/17	Quartet ryegrass systems - Wakanui	Canterbury
H05/18	Fungicides on Italian ryegrass - Feast Irwell	Canterbury
H05/19	PGRS on Quartet ryegrass	Canterbury
H05/20	Endophyte, Fungicides Investigations on ARI	Canterbury

### Maize

M03/01-3	Starter fertiliser reduction in maize	Various North Island
M03/05-3	Zone tillage (strip-till)	Various North Island
M04/01-3	SFF novel weed management for maize	Various North Island
M04/05	Soil nitrogen status trial (deep N)	Various North Island
M05/01-3	SFF Nitrogen management for sustainable maize production - AmazeN	Various North Island
M05/02	Northland nitrogen scoping	Various North Island
M05/03	Planter fertiliser placement	Various North Island
M05/04	Maize Email	Various North Island
M05/05-3	Maize Fungicide Evaluation	Various North Island
M05/06	Landcare maize pollination	Various North Island
M05/07	Sustain vs urea side-dressing in maize	Various North Island

### Pulses

P03/05-3	SFF Grain Legumes	North & South Islands
P04/02-3	SFF peas - Increasing yields PIDG	Canterbury
P05/01	Arable Site - Brassica herbicide screening trial	Arable Site & Canterbury
P05/02	Arable Site - The effect of soil moisture on pea yield	Arable Site
P05/03	Arable Site - Pea fertiliser demonstration	Arable Site
P05/04	Borage - Nutrients and harvesting	Canterbury

### Multiple Crops

X03/03-3	SFF Without the Plough - Non-inversion agronomy	Canterbury
X03/04-4	SFF Rotational arable crops	Canterbury
X04/01-3	SFF Slugs - IPM	Canterbury
X05/01	Arable Site - Grassweed herbicide screening trial	Arable Site
X05/02	Arable Site - Overall management fee	Arable Site
X05/03	Arable Site - Irrigation management fee	Arable Site
X05/04	SFF Weather	Canterbury
X05/05	Herbicide diagnostics demonstration (Arable Site)	Arable Site
X05/06	SFF Seed crop isolation distances II	Canterbury
X05/07-3	Californian Thistle control by Apion weevils	Southland
X05/08	Population density of introduced birds	Canterbury
X05/09	Energy Efficiency case studies - MAF SFF	North & South Islands
X05/10	Land management Index Stage 2 MAFSFF	North & South Islands
X05/12	Precision Agriculture	Canterbury