

**FORBES SERVICES MEMORIAL CLUB
WEDNESDAY 27TH AUGUST 2008**

Theme:

“Reducing input costs without reducing profitability – putting science behind the decisions”

9.00	Welcome	<i>CWFS</i>	5
9.05	Running the business efficiently	<i>Matthew Shephard IMAG Consulting, Dubbo</i>	40
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core business elements needed for success • Developing a business plan – it’s the missing element on most farms • Key cropping elements adopted by successful farmers (TOS, input costs, machinery) • Getting the budget right 		
9.45	Strategies for conserving moisture for maximum grain production	<i>Neil Fettell, NSW DPI Condobolin</i>	40
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of stored moisture – how different soils respond • Increasing OM to store more water • Key strategies to sow on time • Controlling summer weeds • Managing early maturing varieties (frost, disease, etc) 		
10.25	<i>Break</i>		25
10.50	Reducing the chemical weed bill	<i>Scott Jamieson, Crop Optics</i>	40
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of controlling summer weeds • Weed Seeker technology – is it cost effective? • Making the system work • What about Green Seeker for N 		
11.30	Phosphorus – making the right decisions	<i>Mark Conyers, NSW DPI</i>	40
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much P is just enough? • Importance of matching inputs with output • Free P from mineralisation • Are the alternatives cost effective? • Importance of P placement 		
12.10	Crop/pasture balance – time for a rethink	<i>David Herridge, NSW DPI Tamworth</i>	40
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where will the N come from? • Pastures or pulse? • Looking at the livestock/cropping mix • Fertiliser N in cereal cropping • The role of inoculants 		
12.50	Research at the cutting edge	<i>GRDC</i>	10

1.00		<i>Lunch</i>	55
1.55	CWFS		5
2.00	What's driving world grain markets?	<i>Senior economist Commonwealth Bank</i>	40
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current prices – how long will they last? • What are the key indicators for change? • Taking a position – without risk 		
2.40	New crop varieties – how to get the best from them		40
	(Focus on WUE and disease resistance)		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wheat, durum, triticale • Barley • Grazing cereals 	<i>Frank McRae, NSW DPI Neil Fettell, NSW DPI Frank McRae, NSW DPI</i>	
3.20	Seasonal forum	<i>Nathan Border, NSW DPI Matt McRae, AGnVET Jim Cronin, Landmark & others</i>	40
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N post seeding • Rust – cost effective control • Economic threshold for weeds • Trace elements • Spray topping 		
4.00		<i>Close</i>	