



SCF Drainage Day

Philip Honey, Smart Farms Co-ordinator, SCF

On the back of the SCF/FAR Hyper Yielding West Focus Group meeting last month, SCF members had the opportunity to inspect the newly formed GRDC Sub Surface Drainage Demonstration Site at the Preston family farm in West Cranbrook.

The day attracted 35 farmers and advisors, who all had the opportunity to learn more about the SCF Sub Surface Drainage Project aims and some of the many things to consider when implementing sub-surface drainage solutions. A clear highlight of the day was the live installation demonstration and Q&A with drainage contractors Drainage Down Under. Paul Hooper & Dan Smith (the team from Drainage Down Under) led the crowd through some of the drainage design considerations, estimated installation costings and most importantly, how the machine works.

Throughout the next three years, Stirlings to Coast will be undertaking a wide range of monitoring activities at the demonstration site to measure the efficacy of the drainage solution. Ultimately, we want to be able to help growers determine whether it is economically feasible to implement sub-surface drainage solutions and estimate the potential payback period.

We will also be implementing a wide range of digital technologies including soil-moisture probes, weather-stations, automatic water level and water quality sensors throughout the drainage site to get a better understanding of both rainfall and water-flow dynamics. A wide range of interactive workshops & demonstration days, fact sheets and videos will also be produced and compiled throughout the project's life and will be made publicly available through the "Projects" section of the SCF website. Stay tuned for an upcoming field-walk in-season to see the drainage working in action!



SCF would love to hear your thoughts and experiences in water-management on your farm.

To share your experiences and to stay in the loop on the project's news and future planned activities, simply visit <https://bit.ly/GRDCdrain>, the Projects section on the SCF website, or contact Philip Honey on 0428 768 589 to register your interest.



Project Acknowledgements: The development of the SCF Sub Surface Drainage Demonstration Site was made possible through investment from the Grains Research & Development Corporation, demonstration site support from Preston Farms & installation by Drainage Down Under. SCF are also collaborating with South Coast NRM who are running a similar trial in Esperance.