



## Smart Farms Workshop

Phil Honey, Smart Farms Co-ordinator, SCF

Last month, over 30 SCF members, sponsors and industry representatives recently attended our SCF Smart Farms Workshop held at Gilberts Winery in Kendenup. A wide range of topics was covered across both livestock and grains industries, including 101 on Electronic Livestock Identification (*Kelly Gorter – KG Livestock Services*), Extracting Value from Weather Technology in Agriculture (*Krystelle Venn – DTN*), followed by Next Era Livestock Management (*Derrick Thompson – Hitachi Australia*). An update on the Smart Farms Initiative was provided, along with a demonstration of technologies, sensor limitations, and how they work.

So, what were the take-home messages from the day?

- Identify your on-farm issues first, then select a sensor to solve it...never the other way around.
- When considering AgTech, don't always be scared of upfront costs, particularly for rain-gauges and tank monitors. Factor in your time and travel and perform the Return on Investment Calculations to determine savings. SCF has a calculator template to assist if required.
- There are options available for sharing internet connectivity between farms/buildings, or potentially extending internet coverage to areas not previously covered.
- The use of EID allows the opportunity for producers to accurately select low-performing stock to turn-off in dry conditions, allowing producers to retain favorable genetics/traits.
- You can start small with EID utilising wand-readers, before later progressing to advanced weigh-heads/readers. You will always find a use in the future to have both!
- Weather (particularly rainfall) is highly variable. Utilise (and add in additional) nearby weather stations to improve local forecasting accuracy.
- Aggregating data from many data-streams into one custom-built platform that suits your organisation will help improve management decisions, as well open the opportunities for improved productivity, traceability, environmental/social compliance.

A big thank-you to all speakers who presented at this event. Stay tuned to learn more about our journey, as well as the case-studies on these technology types being developed over the next few months. Also, a big congratulations goes to SCF member Tracy Bradshaw on being the lucky winner of the Gilbert's Winery voucher Evaluation Form random prize draw - it certainly pays to fill in those pesky Evaluation forms!

### Are you interested in applying AgTech on your farm?

Stirlings to Coast Farmers is currently recording interest for a range of agricultural technologies to approach a range of suppliers for a potential collective group-purchase. To register interest, please complete our quick 4-question survey accessible from any internet browser at <http://bit.ly/SCFagtech>

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This workshop and the development of the Smart Farm Demonstration Sites was made possible through funding support from the Australian Government National Landcare Program & the WA Government Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development Decision Ag grant programmes.

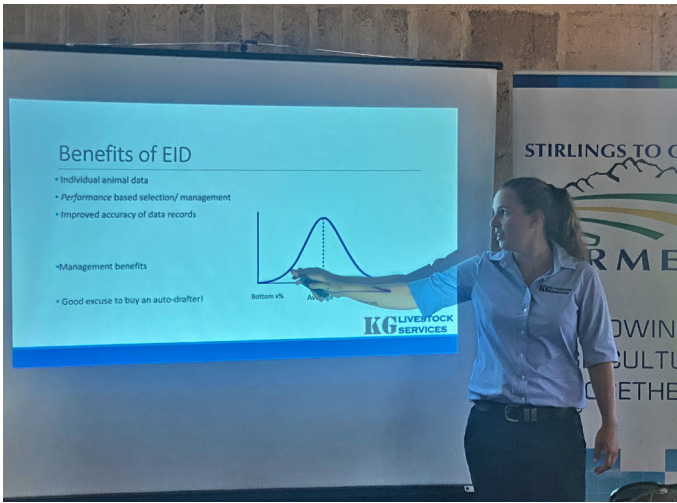




Gilberts Winery hosted this years Smart Farms Workshop



Krystelle Venn, DTN presentation on extracting value from technology in Agriculture



Kelly Gorter Presentation on AgTech in Livestock



Derrick Thompson, Hitachi presentation on data integrations



## Have you missed out on receiving our SCF Smart Farms Workshop Manual from the event?

For an electronic or print copy of the workshop manual and handy hints when selecting AgTech solutions, please contact Philip on 0428 768 589 or [philip.honey@scfarmers.org.au](mailto:philip.honey@scfarmers.org.au)