

Snail Movement Cameras & Predatory Fly Release (SARDI/GRDC)

Stirlings to Coast Farmers became involved in an innovative snail control project, featuring fixed cameras to monitor snail movement and a predatory fly release in 2023/24. This is all part of a larger GRDC investment led by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) in collaboration with Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). The project aims to help farmers better time bait application with the assistance of cameras that will monitor snail movement. It is also hoped the predatory fly release (of *Sarcophaga villeneuveana*) will combat snail numbers. In February 2024, two cameras were installed in the Woogenellup and South Stirling areas and the flies were released in Woogenellup and Wellstead.

Cameras have been monitored by SCF staff throughout 2024 and timelapse videos showing snail movement in response to moisture have regularly been shared to SCF social media channels. This has improved farmer awareness on snail movement patterns and the best time to bait – when snails are active and feeding. Dr Kym Perry from SARDI spoke at the SCF Spring Field Day at the site of the South Stirlings camera, outlining the data the project hopes to collect and strategies to mitigate snails in crops and pastures.

The project will continue to run throughout 2025, with SCF working together with SARDI and DPIRD to engage with farmers along the South Coast at more field events at fly release and camera monitoring sites for those interested to learn more. These events will aim to create awareness and increase knowledge around integrated pest management for the control of snails in broadacre agriculture across the South Coast.



Dr Kym Perry speaking to SCF members at the snail camera monitoring site at South Stirlings at the 2024 Spring Field Day

