

Conservation Agriculture & No-Till Farming Association Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

PHOTOS OF 2010 FIELD DAY AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Biggest Conservation Agriculture Field Day in NSW comes to southern Riverina

24 February 2011, Lockhart Showground

Over 1000 farmers are expected to pour into the Lockhart Showgrounds to look at the latest equipment for stubble management and conservation agriculture on <u>24 February</u>, for the biggest field day devoted to practical no-till farming in NSW.

Organised by the Conservation Agriculture and No-till Farming Association (CANFA) for the past 16 years, this is the first time the field day has been held in the southern Riverina.

CANFA's Neville Gould said more than 55 commercial exhibitors will have equipment on display with both active and static displays to demonstrate the gear required or how to make modifications.

"If you haven't yet tried no-till agriculture, or you've had problems with stubble, or even if you have been practising conservation agriculture for some time, you will find something interesting and someone worthwhile talking to at the Lockhart Conservation Agriculture Field Day.

"With the support from farming system groups, FarmLink Research, Lockhart & District Ag Bureau and Central West Farming Systems in organising and running the day and sponsorship and support from Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Caring for Our Country, the Murray, Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Catchment Management Authorities, NSW Industry & Investment staff and agricultural consultants, we will this year be able to also provide information about soil health, measurement of soil carbon and stubble management in cropping systems."

The active sites where equipment will be demonstrated will be located in a barley stubble paddock in the Showgrounds.

"These demonstrations give farmers the chance to have a close look at the machines operating and discuss their performance with people actually using them", Neville added.

"One size does not fit all in no-till farming, and the organisers are keen to show that there is not only a range of equipment to fit different situations, but there is flexibility in approaches so that farmers can gradually move into no-till and different ways of managing stubble."

The field day gives croppers the opportunity to discuss the different ways of going about conservation agriculture and look for the type of equipment or modifications that can be made to suit their particular soil type and crops.

After a long run of dry seasons and then such a wet one with its own set of problems the organisers are keen to show that the principles of conservation agriculture can adapt to different seasonal events, and to give farmers assistance in looking at what direction to go in when preparing their land for the 2011 winter crops.

The gates open at 8.30am with active demonstrations starting at 9.00am and running to 1pm, with time to visit static displays throughout the day. The day wraps up with the display and judging of the LAND-sponsored "Farmer Modified Machine Award" which is always keenly contested.

Admission is \$15 for the general public, students are free and only \$5 if you are a member of CANFA, Riverine Plains Inc, Lockhart & District Ag Bureau, FarmLink Research and Central West Farming System group.

For more information contact CANFA on (02) 6845 1044 or Neville Gould on 0427 452 488 CANFA Communications Officer: Kim Goldsmith, Ochre Communications (02) 6887 2288 or 0419 439 923

CANFA PO BOX 276 - Wellington NSW 2820 Phone: 02 6845 1044, Fax: 02 6845 1099 Email: <u>canfa@bigpond.com</u>