



**GRAIN  
PRODUCERS SA**  
The voice of South Australian growers

# News

MARCH 2020

## COVID-19 update

**As the voice of South Australian growers, GPSA is taking a lead role to ensure that decision makers in state and federal governments understand the needs of the grain industry at this critical time following the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus in Australia.**

As part of the State Government's emergency response to prevent the spread of the virus, PIRSA has established a dedicated information portal on how COVID-19 affects primary industries: [www.tinyurl.com/PIRSAcovid](http://www.tinyurl.com/PIRSAcovid)

At a state level, GPSA is providing input into the specific exemptions from the closure of SA's borders, as well as working to ensure that Health SA mandated quarantine or workplace restrictions recognise the unique nature of farms as a place of business.

Special exemption provisions have been secured for the agricultural supply chains to minimise disruption to the passage of freight and key services to support grain production across the state.

Special consideration has also been given to primary producers who have been ordered to self-isolate. If self-isolating you must remain within the boundaries of your property and not have direct contact with other people. Essential travel

within and between land parcels is acceptable, provided you do not have any contact with staff/contractors and visitors (e.g. stay in your vehicle with windows closed to allow contractors or deliveries to enter the property via a gate.) If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 you must not travel outside the boundaries of your main property except to seek testing for COVID-19 or for urgent medical care.

We need to hear from you directly to anticipate and respond to the needs of growers at this time. Growers can **contact GPSA Regional Field Officer Shane Gale on 0439 409 751 or [shane@grainproducerssa.com.au](mailto:shane@grainproducerssa.com.au)** to raise specific concerns about matters impacting your business.

To ensure targeted information is available to growers, GPSA has compiled critical information on its website too. You'll find specific information on the border closure and exemptions, including SA Health information following the recent EP Ports Community meeting, as well as WH&S measures you can put in place on farm to protect your workforce and family.

**Find out more here: [www.tinyurl.com/GPSAcovidupdate](http://www.tinyurl.com/GPSAcovidupdate)**

GPSA will continue to update its resources as the situation develops.

## Update from the National Farmers' Federation



**The Federal Government has announced a range of stimulus measures. Summaries of these are available on FarmHub: [www.farmhub.org.au](http://www.farmhub.org.au)**

These measures include instant asset write off and extended depreciation rules, tax measures to help SMEs, including farm businesses, retain employees, additional payments to welfare recipients, including Farm Household Allowance recipients, and loan guarantee arrangements.

Supply of some key inputs – including crop protection products and fertilisers – has tightened due to increased demand as a result of recent rain, as well as delays in receiving imported products particularly from China. NFF understands that supply from China is resuming and there is discussion about prioritising AgVet chemical freight at the border.

The NFF is in regular contact with key suppliers to ensure the continuity of supply, including supply of PPE for spray mixing/application, but has also cautioned that farmers should not be purchasing more product than they need.

**GPSA will provide further updates on our website and via social media: [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au)**

## GrowingSA conference & GPSA AGM update

Together with Livestock SA, GPSA has made the decision to cancel this year's GrowingSA 2020 conference given the Government's new restrictions on indoor events in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GPSA is now working towards the 2021 conference which is to be held on 23 and 24 August 2021, at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf.

Members should be advised that GPSA's AGM will still be held on 24 August 2020, with further details to follow. Given the current situation, GPSA will seek to ensure that members can participate in the business of the AGM remotely, including by direct voting.



## HIT YOUR TARGET

+ spray your own paddock +

### Reminder: 'Hit Your Target' when spraying

Summer rainfall across parts of the state has accelerated spraying programs. If you're spraying, make sure that you are considering your neighbours and are taking proactive steps to control spray drift this season.

GPSA's 'Hit Your Target' campaign has a number of resources for growers and conveys best practice information to help growers 'Hit Your Target' and reduce the likelihood of spray drift and off target damage.

Growers must adopt best practice strategies and equipment to minimise spray drift and off-target damage, particularly in areas neighbouring viticultural and horticultural crops. [More: www.tinyurl.com/HitTarget2020](http://www.tinyurl.com/HitTarget2020)

## Burning stubble? Have you checked the Broadacre Burning Code of Practice?

**GPSA is calling on growers looking to burn crop stubble to adhere to the Broadacre Burning Code of Practice to ensure their activities are safe and controllable.**

The Code outlines a range of practices that should be undertaken prior to broadacre stubble burning in order to reduce the chance of a stubble burning operation becoming uncontrollable. This includes not burning when the GFDI exceeds 20, having appropriate water available, testing burn methods, and notifying neighbours and nearby road users.

The Code also requires:

- That burning not take place when the GFDI exceeds 20.
- That no burning takes place on a total fire ban day, except where a permit has been issued under the Fire

and Emergency Services Act 2005.

- That burning not take place where the weather the day after the proposed burn is unfavourable.
- That a four-metre fuel break be established.
- That adequate firefighting resources be readily available when conducting a burn, including Farm Fire Units ('FFUs').
- That neighbours be notified before a burn is to take place.
- That operators have immediate access to a UHF radio or mobile phone.

[Find out more at www.tinyurl.com/BurningCodePractice](http://www.tinyurl.com/BurningCodePractice)



## Help to unlock AgTech potential in SA

The State Government, through the guidance and advice of the AgTech Advisory Group, is creating an AgTech strategy for South Australia to encourage greater uptake of technology on-farm to increase productivity and profitability.

This survey is the first step in making South Australia a leader in AgTech. Enter the survey now: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLTJYS2](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BLTJYS2)

## 'Roadworthy Heavy Vehicles... Made Easy' workshops postponed

**GPSA's Roadworthy Heavy Vehicles... Made Easy workshops kicked off earlier this month with both theoretical and practical workshops held in Streaky Bay, Lock, Cowell and Kimba.**

However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, GPSA made the decision to immediately suspend the workshops to ensure the health and well-being of our rural and regional communities.

GPSA will work to ensure that alternatives will be offered to growers including web-based learning or replacement

workshops in the second half of the year. Workshop registrants will be directly contacted in coming months to organise a replacement workshop near you.

The Roadworthy Heavy Vehicles... Made Easy! campaign has been funded by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative Program, with the support of the Federal Government.

[For more information visit GPSA's website at www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au)

## ACCC seeks information on agricultural machinery sales

**Growers are invited to participate in a survey by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission about their experiences in purchasing, servicing and repairing agricultural machinery.**

The ACCC is seeking to better understand:

- options available to farmers in the event of problems with machinery, including accessing parts, diagnostic tools and software

- whether warranty terms and agreements between manufacturers and dealers may limit access to servicing and repairs
- competition concerns stemming from the policies of machinery manufacturers regarding data collection and ownership.

The survey is open until Wednesday 22 April.

[More: www.tinyurl.com/AgMachinerySurvey](http://www.tinyurl.com/AgMachinerySurvey)

