

Thursday October 6, 2016

Grain producers access affordable farm business management training through new consortium

South Australian growers are able to complete a Diploma in Agribusiness Management at a quarter of the cost thanks to funding from the Australian Government and managed by Grain Producers SA.

The Industry Skills Fund is designed to help cover some of the costs of eligible training. In the case of small businesses of less than four people, including in the agricultural industries, the Industry Skills Fund covers up to 75 per cent of the training costs. Grain Producers SA is acting as a consortium manager on behalf of growers to undertake the training which is being offered through Regional Skills Training (RST).

GPSA chief executive officer Mr Darren Arney says the organisation was recently successful in receiving a second round of funding and training has started.

“In total, we have assisted 49 farmers from 42 businesses around SA to undertake the Diploma in Agribusiness Management after the first round of training, which began in April,” Mr Arney said.

“To be able to offer farmers this extra training is really taking farming to that next level. Topics covered include leadership skills training, financial and strategic planning for growth, tax and legal, soil management, risk management and succession planning. All of these are skills that are vital in creating a sustainable grain production industry.”

The total cost of the two courses is nearly \$400,000, of which the Australian Government contribution is nearly \$300,000. The courses run for about 18 months through a series of workshops, on-farm visits and online assessments.

“The full cost of each diploma is \$9,000. The Industry Skills Fund has covered much of this cost with growers paying just \$2,250. This has made the training much more accessible to our growers,” Mr Arney said.

“Building new and developing existing skills are essential to continued growth, and we believe this is a great opportunity for grain producers to grow their skills and knowledge.”

“Industry Skills Fund Skills Advisers are available to help businesses work out what skills they need to achieve growth and what training solution suits their unique business best.”

GPSA continues to look for other opportunities to assist its members to access affordable and appropriate training and will work with Livestock SA to secure other opportunities.

For those interested in pursuing a Diploma in Agribusiness Management contact Regional Skills Training via www.regionalskillstraining.com for further details.

Find out more about the Industry Skills Fund at business.gov.au/industryskillsfund or call 13 28 46.

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For more information on Grain Producers SA and its policies, visit www.grainproducerssa.com.au or get in touch on 08 8391 6621 or email info@grainproducerssa.com.au

About Grain Producers SA:

Grain Producers SA is a not-for-profit organisation that represents all levy-paying grain producers in South Australia. GPSA's objective is to foster the development and implementation of policies that promote the economic and environmental sustainability of the South Australian grains industry for the benefit of its producers and the wider community. Growers are encouraged to have their say on policy and have input on the people who represent them.

