



2010 Crops Competition Dates Announced!

**Friday 17 - Sunday 19 September, 2010
Temora, NSW**

Grain Growers Association is pleased to announce the dates for the 2010 Australian University Crops Competition. Following a successful inaugural year in 2009, competitor numbers are expected to exceed thirty students from around Australia with competitors also being sought from overseas.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT AUCC CHAMPION?
Which University will take out the title of Champion University?

The Competition Development Committee, which includes the top five competitors from 2009 and industry personnel have reviewed the competition format and the 2010 components are sure to once again challenge competitors whilst providing a unique learning experience prior to entering the industry. While the competition format will not change greatly, the new components include a state specific business strategy section, the addition of a soil analysis component and the inclusion of a non competitive component aimed at providing students with professional career and development advice. .

Universities will shortly be receiving an information pack containing the Official Operations Handbook, promotional collateral, and expression of interest forms. The competition targets students undertaking agriculture related or environmental science undergraduate degrees.. To find out more about the competition visit the official competition website www.unicropscomp.com.au

2009 Top Five University Students Bring Back NZ Cropping Secrets

The five (5) highest overall scoring competitors from the 2009 Competition won the major prize of an international study tour to New Zealand. Sandy Middleton (CSU Wagga Wagga), Michael Noble (Uni of Adelaide), Annieka Paridaen (La Trobe uni), Denielle Kilby (UNE) and Alex Byrne (La Trobe uni) traveled to Christchurch, New Zealand from the 24th - 29th January 2010.



Over the five days in New Zealand, the top five toured the Canterbury region, visiting the following enterprises:

Industry Visits:

- Lincoln University
- PGG Wrightson – NZ largest agribusiness
- NZ Institute for Plant and Food Research
- Syngenta
- Midlands Seeds
- SI Seed Dressing and Storage Co
- Foundation for Arable Research (FAR)

Farm Visits:

- Springston Farm
- Altonbrook Farm
- Lincoln University Dairy
- Greenvale Pastures & Dairy – Mackenzie Family
- Darfield Farm - Andrew Gillanders

Guest Speakers:

- Professor Bruce McKenzie (Lincoln University, Dean of Agriculture & Life Sciences)
- Brent Rawstron - Rossendale Winery & Farmer

Dinner Guests:

- Professor Hamish Gow, (Massey University, formerly at Michigan State University USA)
- Professor Neil Gow, (Lincoln University)
- 8 'FAR Arable Y's' young farmers

While in New Zealand each of the Delegates carried out an industry research project:

1. **Sandy Middleton** – 'Integrated pest management of NZ cropping systems and opportunity for technology adoption within southern NSW farming systems'
2. **Michael Noble** – 'The differences between South Australian & Canterbury Plain crop production systems'
3. **Annieka Paridaen** – 'The use of plant growth regulators (PGR's) in NZ and successful adoption in Australia'
4. **Denielle Kilby** – 'Investigating the effect New Zealand's tractability regulations have on Australian grain entering the country.'
5. **Alex Byrne** – 'Comparison between Australian and New Zealand On-Farm Grain Storage and Quality Assurance'

Visit the Crops Competition website to download the reports completed by the top five place getters - www.unicropscomp.com.au

Support the Next Generation!

Unique opportunities are available to the industry to officially support this important competition. As a financial supporter of the competition you will have access to some of Australia's top graduates. You will also have great opportunities for networking with competitors, university representatives, the grains industry and the opportunity to help build the capacity of the next generation of rural leaders. To discuss the opportunities available, please contact the Competition Manager, Kirsty John, on 02 4384 4584 or drop Kirsty an email to info@unicropscomp.com.au

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