



CWFS

Central West Farming Systems

- Farmers Advancing Research -

2009 SPONSORSHIP PROSPECTUS



The Organisation

Central West Farming Systems (CWFS) was formed in 1998 as a farmer based research group with the motto of **Farmers Advancing Research**. The principle aim of the organisation is:

“To be the leading regional group effectively demonstrating, extending and promoting farming innovation to assist farmers manage their businesses for long term economic, social and environmental viability”.

The group is managed by an Executive Committee comprising of ten farmers, elected from our membership at each Annual General Meeting and representatives from our major funding/project partners.

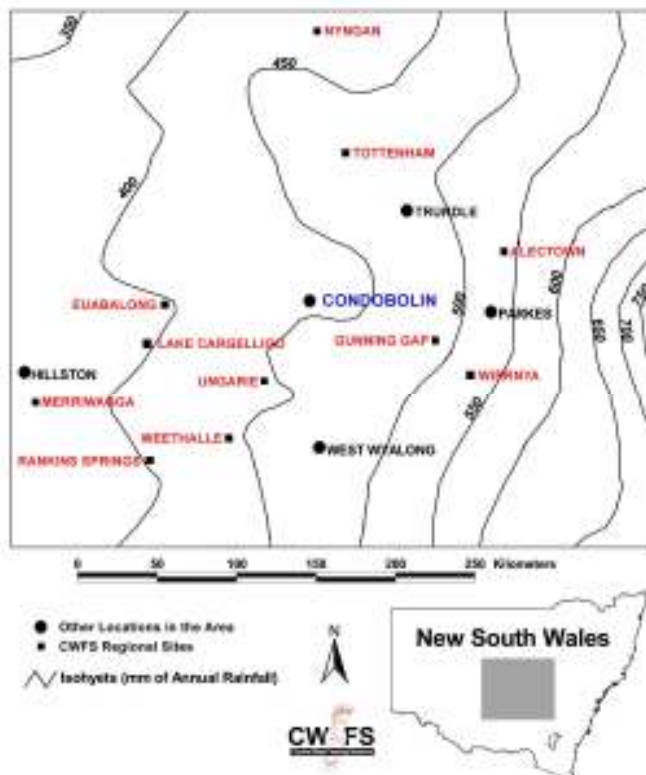
CWFS currently has over 280 members. These are predominately farmers, although we are also strongly supported by private advisers, agribusiness, research organisations and universities.

CWFS employ a multidisciplinary staff including a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Regional Site Coordinator, Technical Assistant and Extension Officer. CWFS also contract staff for book keeping and the upkeep of our website.

Core funding for our activities derive from industry and Government funding programs. Our major funding partners currently include the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the Commonwealth Government “*Caring for Our Country*” program and the Lachlan Catchment Management Authority (CMA).

Our office is located at the NSW DPI Agricultural Research and Advisory Station at Condobolin, which is ideally central to our region.

The Region



CWFS covers an area of some 14 million hectares across the low rainfall region of Central West NSW.

Rainfall is historically winter dominant and ranges from 550mm/year in the east to below 400mm/year in the western areas of the region.

CWFS currently operates 11 regional sites as indicated on the map reaching from Nyngan in the north, Alectown and Wirrynia in the east and Merriwagga and Rankins Springs in the south west of the region. Trials are also run annually at the Condobolin Research Station.

Each site is hosted by a CWFS member and managed by a regional site farmer committee and supported by CWFS staff, NSW DPI District Agronomists and local private agribusiness advisers.

Activities and Outputs

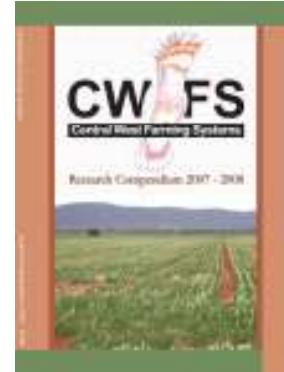


Regional Sites

Each year we run pre-season planning meetings, in crop walks and spring field days at our 11 regional sites. Each site varies with some hosting a range of research and demonstration activities as identified by their committee, whilst others choose to organise bus trips to visit other progressive farmers. The choice is theirs!

Compendium

CWFS produce an Annual Research Compendium featuring the results from all of our trials sites along with papers covering relevant topics from other farming systems and research groups.



Newsletters & Fact Sheets

CWFS produce four newsletters annually along with relevant and timely fact sheets for members.

Member Info. Service

Our members receive regular updates and bulletins via email through our Member Info. Service.



- In this issue**
- New CEO for CWFS
 - CWFS Regional Site Spring Field Days
 - Agfarm Information Seminar - This Thursday 9th October

See below for more details.



Website

Our website is constantly updated with reports of our activities, photos and up and coming events. We also have a members only section where we post publications and research results.

GDRC Grower Updates

CWFS work with the GRDC to bring annual grower updates to our region.



Bus trips, Workshops & Other Activities

Organised when requested by members and as opportunities to bring specialists into our region arise,

Current Projects & Research Activities

Water Use Efficiency (WUE)

This five year project, funded by GRDC aims to increase yield potential through a 10% increase in WUE across the region by 2013. Project partners include the NSW DPI, CSIRO and AGnVET Services. The modules of this project include

CWFS Regional Sites -

- Continued employment of our Regional Site Coordinator and Technical Officer
- Undertake trials and extension activities across our 11 regional sites annually

Stubble Grazing Trial -

- Two sites to be established following harvest in 2008 at the Condobolin Research Station and an on-farm location at Tottenham
- Look at the effects of grazing cereal stubbles over summer on the performance and WUE of the following years crop.
- Trials sites will utilise sheep and cattle for grazing

WUE Monitoring, Evaluation & Extension -

- Employment of a Farming Systems Extension Agronomist
- Detailed soil and water monitoring on three properties annually
- Coordinated extension workshops/activities targeted at WUE
- Data collected will be paired with the AGnVET Services BettaCrop database to provide benchmarking data to evaluate the projects performance
- This data will also be fed into modelling work being undertaken by the CSIRO

Caring for Our Country

CWFS has accessed funding from the Federal Government for the current financial year with the hope of continued funding going forward. This project includes:

- The employment of a CEO to manage the groups staff and activities
- Development of regional partnerships, sponsorship and collaborative projects
- Additional funds for the regional site program, publications, workshops, bus trips, conference sponsorship, and general operating costs.

AgFund

- A one off grant to run 5 workshops looking at the use of precision agriculture software to improve farm and risk management.
- The workshops will engage specialists to support farmers to more effectively use data collected in paddock via yield monitors
- The workshops will be run in February/March 2009.

NSW Conservation Agriculture Field Day

In 2008, CWFS partnered with CANFA and the NSW DPI to host the annual NSW Conservation Agriculture Field Day at the Condobolin Research Station. The day was a huge success with over 750 farmers attending to visit 55 active and static displays. CWFS will continue to be a partner in the event when it moves to Temora in February 2009.

Farming Systems Comparison Trial

CWFS have recently completed a ten year, systems comparison trial hosted at the Condobolin Research Station. It looked at the long term viability of conventional mixed farming, reduced tillage mixed farming, no-till no livestock and perennial pasture grazing systems. We are now investigating on-going research opportunities for this site, potentially looking at the implications of climate change and variability in our farming environment.

Sponsorship Opportunities for 2009 (January - December)

CWFS receives core funding for specific projects from our major funding partners. Currently these are the GRDC, the Commonwealth Government Caring for Our Country Program and the Lachlan CMA.

To underwrite these projects and aid in the development of new projects, CWFS seeks sponsorship from others within the industry. CWFS pools this money with our revenue received from membership for use in priority areas, not currently covered by our specific projects. Below is an outline of the four sponsorship levels we offer.


	Diamond Sponsor	Gold Sponsor	Silver Sponsor	Bronze Sponsor
Sponsorship Benefits	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$4,000	\$1,000
Acknowledgement of Sponsor level on CWFS website (including web link)	Home & sponsor page logo	Home & sponsor page logo	Sponsor page logo	Sponsor page listing
Verbal presence at CWFS pre-season meetings & spring field days	*	*		
Visible presence at CWFS pre-season meetings and spring field days	*	*	*	*
Logo & sponsor level on regular Member Info. Service emails	*	*		
Advertorial in Quarterly Newsletter	Half page 4 issues/yr	Quarter page 2 issues/yr		
Acknowledgement of Sponsor level in Quarterly Newsletter	Front & back page logo	Back page logo	Back page logo	Back page listing
Acknowledgement of Sponsor level on CWFS Fact Sheets	*	*	*	
Acknowledgement of Sponsor level in Annual Compendium	*	*	*	*
Advertisement in Annual Compendium	2 x full page	Full page + half page	Full page	Half Page
Acknowledgement of Sponsor level in Annual Field Day Book	*	*	*	*
CWFS Membership	*	*	*	*

All prices shown exclude GST

The benefits outlined above are guidelines only and may be refined to suit particular sponsor requirements. CWFS are also happy to discuss additional sponsorship opportunities, for example sponsorship of specific regional site field days.

Whilst in-kind support is welcome, please note that minimum financial contributions do apply to bronze, silver and gold sponsor levels.



 **Contact CWFS**
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