

# Climate Change Research Program

## Australia's Farming Future

### Research Case Study

Some of the country's leading agricultural researchers highlighted key findings from a range of projects that will help farmers and graziers adapt to our variable climate.

## Riverina producers armed with practical strategies to manage shorter growing seasons

Primary producers from the Riverina received a unique insight into the future challenges and opportunities for the farming sector during the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) funded Future Farming Forum held in Wagga Wagga in May.

Some of the country's leading agricultural researchers highlighted key findings from a range of projects that will help farmers and graziers adapt to our variable climate.

Guest speaker Phil Graham, from the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), said attendees heard about the results from the Southern Livestock Adaptation (SLA) project.

"This project is not about telling producers what to do, but rather arming them with the information they need to continue farming profitably and productively," he said.



"We've looked at practical strategies primary producers can use to manage shorter growing seasons, including changing the time of lambing or calving, altering pasture species or concentrating on genetic improvement," Mr Graham said.



Michael Cashen (pictured right), Warwick Badgery and Phil Bowden all from NSW DPI also spoke at the Future Farming Forum.

“Michael looked at the management strategies Riverina grain farmers can use to negate the risks associated with a changing climate, while Warwick spoke about climate change, land use and soil type and the effect on carbon stores,” Mr Graham said.

Wagga Wagga prime lamb and cereals producer, Ralph Gebhardt said the forum provided an opportunity to hear the results of research conducted locally.

“The forum provided the opportunity to look at the broader picture with regards to climate and its affect on the agriculture sector. As producers, we have access to valuable information which will help us now and in coming years to deal with a changing climate.

“It is important that we look more closely at our production systems and forums such as this allow us to do that,” Mr Gebhardt said.

The Wagga Wagga forum was just one of a number held nationally in 2011 and 2012 to demonstrate that changing management strategies can have real and lasting benefits on the productivity and profitability of farms across the country.



## Australia’s Farming Future: Climate Change Research Program

The Australian Government’s Australia’s Farming Future: Climate Change Research Program is a significant research effort aimed at providing practical solutions for our primary industries to adapt to the changing climate. The Climate Change Research Program (CCRP) has provided funding for research projects and on-farm demonstration activities under the three priority areas of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving soil management and research into adaptation management practices.

The CCRP has laid the vital groundwork for further research, demonstration and extension that will now occur through the Australian Government’s \$429 million Carbon Farming Futures Program.

For further information on the CCRP or any of the funded projects, please phone 1800 638 746 or visit [www.daff.gov.au/aff](http://www.daff.gov.au/aff).

*This case study is part of a series produced by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry as part of the Climate Change Research Program.*