



## CARBON FARMING IN THE UPPER SOUTH EAST IN 2025



*courtesy of Limestone Coast Landscape Board*

*Are you interested in learning about carbon farming? Confused about the difference between a carbon footprint and a carbon baseline? The Introduction to Carbon Farming workshops hosted by the Limestone Coast Landscape Board are the workshops for you!*

Farmers and land managers are being put under increased pressure, both locally and globally, to reduce farm emissions. Starting in February 2025, the Limestone Coast Landscape Board are running introductory workshops in the regions with a focus on:

1. Helping you understand YOUR farm emissions and clarify the opportunities available to reduce your farm emissions.
2. Stepping you through some carbon farming strategies suitable for the Limestone Coast region that can help you reduce your emissions and ensure you can make informed decisions for your farming enterprise.

3. Exploring the carbon calculators suitable for your enterprise and take a look at the other online tools available to assist your research in this area.
4. Guiding you through how the new mandatory reporting requirements for larger businesses within your supply chain will impact your farming enterprise and your reporting requirements.

To register for your closest workshop you can click [here](https://lc.landscape.sa.gov.au/) or visit the Limestone Coast Landscape Board website (<https://lc.landscape.sa.gov.au/>).

If you have any questions about these workshops, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board Carbon Outreach Officer, Edel Stoner ([Edel.Stoner2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Edel.Stoner2@sa.gov.au)).



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**SEED SALES**

Ph: (08) 8752 0024

Email: [seedsales@tataraseeds.com.au](mailto:seedsales@tataraseeds.com.au)

## Free events

# Introduction to Carbon Farming workshops

**Workshop focus:**

- Insights into market and supply chain drivers and the impacts on your farming business
- Understanding greenhouse gas emissions from your farm
- Discover carbon farming methods and strategies suitable for your farm
- Explore the carbon calculators and other tools available.

**Kingston: 18 February 2025**  
**Mount Gambier: 20 February 2025**  
**Naracoorte: 25 February 2025**  
**Millicent: 27 February 2025**  
**Bordertown: 3 March 2025**



Register for a workshop nearest you!

Delivered with funding support from the Commonwealth of Australia through the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under the Carbon Farming Outreach Program.



# BUY, SOW & HARVEST AN RAGT HYBRID CANOLA IN 2025 FOR A CHANCE TO SCORE A TRUCK LOAD OF CASH!\*



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\*See [ragt.au/scoremore](http://ragt.au/scoremore) for full terms. Open to all Australian residents except those residing in the ACT. Closes 30/06/2025 at 11:59 PM. Retain all documentation. One entry per 100kg Canola purchased during promotional period. Winner drawn with a chance to win the major prize on 31/07/25 at 11am at Zebra Direction, level 3, 22, Albert Place, South Melbourne VIC 3205. The Promoter is RAGT Australia (ABN 11 118 991 272) 13 Future Court Shepparton, VIC 3630 Australia NSW Permit number TP/02477, SA Licence No T24/1971.





Visit [ragt.au](http://ragt.au) or call 03 5832 3800 to SCORE MORE.





# WATER UPDATE – USING YOUR CARRY-OVER

The Department for Environment and Water are transitioning management of groundwater license management to a new platform called My Water.

This has caused delays to the normal timeframes for communication of seasonal carryovers and annual license updates, and the issuing of Annual Water Use Levy invoices. Should you need to know your carryover volume to assist with summer crop planning, please call the DEW Mount Gambier office on 08 8735 1134. Have your license number(s) available.

According to other growers, within a reasonable timeframe, they will be able to calculate your carryover and communicate that to you in email form.

## From Department for Environment and Water

The Water Allocation Plan for the Tatiara Prescribed Wells Area June 2010 (the Plan) is fully allocated with no new water available. The Plan provides some provisions to manage seasonal variability, predominantly through permanent or temporary trade. For any temporary or permanent trades, buyers must find a seller in the same management area. Certain trades will be subject to a hydrogeological assessment.

Trades may be subject to a range of other criteria and licence holders are encouraged to contact the Mount Gambier DEW Water Licensing Office on 87351187 to understand their trade circumstances.

## From Limestone Coast Landscape Board

From looking at the allocation and use data for Tatiara there is certainly some unused water that some may be interested to trade. How much water available does depend on the management area, with use across the management areas varying from 19 – 88% on average.

The amendment of the Tatiara Water Allocation Plan is likely to start to ramp back up in 2025. If you're interested to understand resource conditions trends the latest is available here:

[https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Content/Publications/DEW/Limestone\\_Coast\\_2020\\_21\\_WRA\\_TN.pdf#search=Limestone%20Coast%20Prescribed%20Areas%202020%E2%80%9320water%20resources%20assessment](https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/Content/Publications/DEW/Limestone_Coast_2020_21_WRA_TN.pdf#search=Limestone%20Coast%20Prescribed%20Areas%202020%E2%80%9320water%20resources%20assessment)

The prescribed wells area is experiencing some declines in groundwater levels which increased use could further impact.



# AUSTRALIAN FODDER INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION – HAY REPORT



## NATIONAL SUMMARY

### Driving Prices Up

- Rain interruptions to harvest across south-eastern Australia have bumped up values in the south as a few trade shorts put up their hands.
- The weather across south west Victoria has directly influenced fodder and silage markets.
- Limited rainfall in key periods has tightened supplies, pushing prices higher due to increased demand and reduced local availability.

### Driving Prices Down

- Recent storms and wet conditions across Victoria and Southern NSW has impacted the quality or various crops, reducing their sale value.

## REGIONAL COMMENTARY

### Southeast South Australia

As the weather is very steamy now, not much is happening to help wrap up the harvest season.

Reports say there is a lot of damaged hay, and farmers are just concentrating on finishing off the season. There is a lot of hay on the ground, and about half to three-quarters is in good condition. Stock is also being offloaded.

Key observations in temperature include periods of below-average rainfall interspersed with occasional showers. The region has seen relatively dry and warm days, which is characteristic of the early summer period. However, some localised rainfalls have provided limited relief to agricultural areas.

Farmers in the region have reported difficulties due to inconsistent rain patterns and extended dry spells. This has particularly affected crops like cereals, which require consistent moisture. In areas with heavier rainfall, there have been minor delays in harvesting due to wet conditions in some paddocks.

The fluctuating weather has increased demand for fodder and silage, with prices rising across the region. Limited rainfall has reduced pasture growth, making stored fodder a critical resource for livestock farmers. Current trends indicate that both fodder and silage prices remain higher than average, reflecting scarcity and strong demand.

Significant change to pricing this week:

- Cereal hay: +/-0 (\$350 to \$390/t). Prices remain steady this week.
- Lucerne hay: +3 (\$410 to \$450/t). Prices increase this week.
- Straw: +20 (\$135 to \$165/t). Prices increase this week.
- Pasture hay: +50 (\$250 to \$330/t). Prices increase this week.

**Please note:** Unless stated otherwise, prices are per tonne, sourced and delivered locally. The price range indicated is for feeds of varying quality with the price range generally indicative of quality of feed. We recommend feed testing and viewing of fodder before purchase to be sure of the quality of feed.

For more information contact AFIA:  
info@afia.org.au www.afia.org.au

*The Australian Fodder Industry Association (AFIA) is the independent, national peak body for Australia's fodder industry. Since our establishment in 1996 our network of members, sponsors, supporters and engaged participants has worked for over 25 years to help the fodder industry grow.*



# DECISION MAKING DURING BUSY TIMES – ALIGNING THE HEAD, HEART AND GUT

by Danielle Lannin England, Lucerne Australia

Email: [info@lucerneaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@lucerneaustralia.org.au) Mobile: 0439 538332

Effective decision making is one of the key elements to being a successful farmer. Research has shown the only real difference between the top 20 percent of farmers and the rest of the industry is their ability to make the right decision at the right time.

It is said that the difference between a good and a bad decision is three days. In the busy times like harvest and irrigation it is probably more like three hours!

A right decision is the decision you made at that point in time, with the information you have at hand. We can never have everything we need to make a fully-informed decision (even with time on our side), and even if we did, our brains would overload and lead us into decision paralysis. This is what happens if we delay a decision. One saying is that a good decision is when the “head, heart and gut align”. But what does this mean?

## Head – Rational decision making

Rational decision making is when we have most of the necessary information available to make a considered decision. We might use rational decision making when we are buying a new header, farm, or investment. Things that take a bit more thought.

## Heart – Values based decision making

Values are acquired early in life, and are like attitudes, but are more ingrained and permanent. They differ among individuals (even from husband and wife), and govern our perceptions and our behaviour. They act as a guidance system for decision making.

## Gut – Intuition

Intuition is where our subconscious finds links between the current situation and its past experience and knowledge. It allows us to make quicker decisions because it bypasses rational processes, but it relies on the quality of our past experience and knowledge to be of any value. Intuitive decisions are usually right if they ‘feel’ right.

Therefore, the more experience you have on a topic (or problem), read, discuss and think about it, the better your intuition. Despite having gaps in information, intuition enables you to make a decision.

What happens when we are stressed? Cortisol is the anxiety-induced ‘stress hormone’. This impairs the decision making process, sometimes to the point of inaction. When people are affected by stress, their ability to think and rationalise is reduced.



The human brain is divided into two parts, the ‘ancestral’ mind and the ‘thinking’ mind. The ancestral mind governs basic emotions that allow us to act and make decisions. The thinking mind is a rational mind that processes information into ‘complex, abstract thoughts’. It is involved in reasoning, anticipation and planning/organising actions.

Under stress, people revert to using the ancestral mind to cope with basic functions. We tend to do things the way we have always done them. We tend not to want to take on board new information, or to think deeply about a topic or problem. So we rely on our intuition to guide us through.

It is this intuition, decisions made on past experiences and knowledge, which is critical during busy times. During busy times you need to trust your gut, the fact you have planned and prepared, and have done as much as you can to prevent difficult times. But things do go wrong and they will.

So, as you get busy, remember that you may not have your head, heart and gut aligned. We all know that busy times are not the best times to make decisions. It is important that we take a break following peak periods such as harvest, seeding and irrigation, and come back to discuss any key decisions.

The decision you make today may be different tomorrow. And that is OK. It is all a part of being human. Remember - if it ‘feels right’ then it probably is the right decision.





# STICKY BEAK DAYS 2024/25 SEASON

## DAY ONE - TRIAL SITE UPDATE

Friday 13th December 2024

8.30am - meet at the Lucerne Australia Trial Site

## DAY TWO - CROP OPTIONS

Wednesday 15th January 2025

8.30am - meet at Alpha Group, Keith

## DAY THREE - IRRIGATION OPTIONS

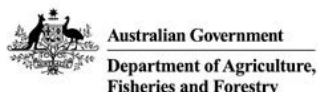
Tuesday 11th February 2026

8.30am - meet at Willalooka Hall

Sticky Beak Days are a chance to have a look at what other lucerne seed growers are doing to manage the 2024/25 lucerne seed season.

**8.30am - 10.00am**  
**Everyone is welcome.**

RSVP preferred but not essential:  
Danielle Lannin England  
0439 538332  
[info@lucerneaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@lucerneaustralia.org.au)



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DROUGHT RESILIENCE ADOPTION AND INNOVATION HUB

This program received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund



# PROVEN VARIETIES ARE CONSISTENT PERFORMERS



by Greg Excell, Limestone Coast Seeds

As we head into the final few weeks of 2024, it has been interesting to sit and reflect on the last twelve months in the Lucerne Seed industry. The moments of reflection have had to be brief, as we have been kept extremely busy exporting lucerne seed over the past couple of months. This has been a real positive, and a great result for many of our clients, as with Saudi Arabia still not in the market for lucerne, other countries have been able to benefit from this and have secured our seed.

We are pleased to be able to report that by the end of December we will have exported the same amount of containers that we did in 2023. Last year most of our export work was completed during the winter months, however, this year the last quarter has seen the most export activity. It is interesting to note that only a third of the containers exported from our two sites this year have been lucerne seed, with vetch, clovers and beans also making their way off Australian shores.

Nearly all the certified Siriver in both of our sheds has been sold, as well as all certified Aurora, with only a very small amount of uncertified Aurora left in our warehouses. These two proven varieties continue to perform consistently and there always seems to be high demand for them.

With the acquisition of our second site at Stirling Road, we have been able to diversify our business, giving us the ability to stay busy all year round. Our core group of local staff continues to expand, and at this time of year we are welcoming our seasonal staff, including some who are returning from previous seasons.

Upgrading our equipment is something that we continue to do and the latest instalment has been the purchase of a Batco Conveyor to be used when unloading trucks. This new implement is 87ft long and is situated at our Stirling Road site. Both of our sites will remain open during the festive season, with closures only on Public Holidays.

My team and I hope the lucerne seed production is going well for all growers and hope to hear reports of high seed yields for 2025.

We wish all our clients and friends a Merry Christmas, and a safe and prosperous New Year.



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VR4879215



# WOMEN IN SEED NETWORK TOUR – HOBART 11-13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

Registration is NOW OPEN for the  
2025 Women in Seed Network Tour!

Join us in Hobart from 11–13 March 2025 for three unforgettable days to connect with peers, learn from experts, and explore some agricultural highlights of Tasmania. Places are capped, so reserve your place now to avoid missing out!

## Here's what's in store:

**Day 1 - Tuesday 11 March:** Make your way to the boutique-styled Rydges Hobart for an evening of networking drinks and nibbles with all attendees.

**Day 2 - Wednesday 12 March:** The Women in Seed Forum will feature a dynamic range of speakers starting with a communications workshop run by Sally Mufet of Inspire Ag. The forum will also feature Dr Amy Imms of The Burnout Project. Day 2 finishes with dinner at Hobart's spectacular waterfront.

**Day 2 - Thursday 13 March:** A full field day featuring seed, regenerative agriculture, oysters and more! The field day will finish in time for evening flights that depart Hobart for most major Australian cities.



The registration fee of **\$1,250 + GST** includes everything across the three days, except flights to Hobart.

The Women in Seed Network Tour is about more than just professional development—it's about building a strong, supportive network for women to thrive in our fantastic industry. If this event isn't directed at you, then have a think about who you work with or who you know in the industry that you could send it to.

Get in touch with Alysha at [alockley@asf.asn.au](mailto:alockley@asf.asn.au) for any enquiries.

## More information:

<https://ausseedfed.glueup.com/event/women-in-seed-network-tour-tasmania-125750/>





# LUCERNE EXPORT STATISTICS FROM AUSTRALIA

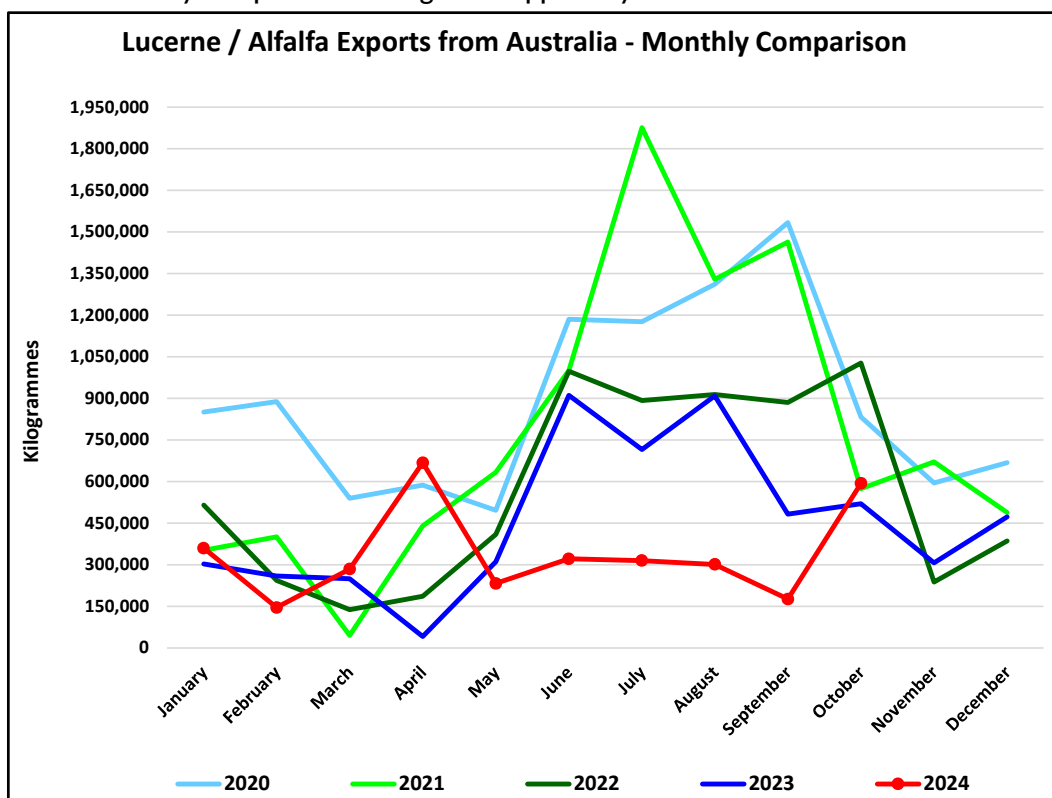
## - January 2014 to October 2024

courtesy of Teague Australia

Quantities below are in kg.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Year to date Difference 2023 & 2024
Jan	687,172	698,895	374,150	266,596	307,530	512,692	850,518	352,056	515,246	302,936	359,725	+56,789
Feb	518,553	1,099,252	148,919	108,988	57,008	639,425	887,613	400,125	243,786	258,837	145,333	-56,715
Mar	334,033	582,929	227,050	127,000	321,205	684,044	539,525	44,500	137,329	249,852	284,060	-22,507
Apr	171,816	549,340	784,031	143,025	123,100	536,501	482,194	439,500	186,064	40,819	667,244	+603,918
May	495,472	940,000	644,704	363,023	355,575	281,335	495,875	633,571	409,715	310,224	232,465	+526,159
Jun	1,029,000	2,176,805	2,942,685	1,018,477	794,995	1,239,461	1,286,579	1,000,145	996,989	910,183	321,018	-63,006
Jul	1,260,782	1,649,080	786,450	1,214,352	303,288	792,380	1,205,927	1,875,361	891,632	715,121	314,968	-463,159
Aug	1,217,121	834,178	1,339,684	767,256	721,730	1,002,472	1,443,626	1,329,201	914,012	908,522	300,844	-1,070,837
Sep	1,516,965	770,857	388,207	882,195	698,665	871,762	1,533,097	1,463,717	885,058	482,480	176,056	-1,377,261
Oct	1,356,922	667,503	588,199	364,673	472,480	738,090	832,925	573,749	1,026,920	520,252	592,868	-1,304,645
Nov	810,704	543,246	409,700	649,318	615,285	609,028	595,095	670,850	237,888	307,116		
Dec	829,293	511,127	623,560	443,729	664,134	775,684	667,771	488,544	385,212	474,742		
Total	10,227,833	11,023,212	9,257,339	6,348,911	5,434,995	8,682,874	10,661,226	9,271,319	6,829,851	5,481,084	3,394,581	

This summary was produced using data supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



We thank Teague Australia, an associate member of Lucerne Australia, for supplying these figures.

# LUCERNE AGRONOMY REPORT: DRYLAND PRODUCTION LOW



by Scott Hutchings, Senior Agronomist, Delta Agribusiness

With the events of the last 9 months we move into what looks to be one of the lowest seed area production years in recent memory, dryland area is at a near all-time low with only a handful of paddocks shut up for seed in my patch this is primarily driven by lack of rainfall and stored soil moisture. Recent rains have sparked the dryland stands up but with minimal stored soil moisture I expect that at current evapo-transpiration rates it will only be enough to give a few weeks of growth and not enough to grow out a seed crop without significant follow up, even with significant rain I expect many dryland stands will be used for forage rather than locked up for seed.

We are observing quite a few wingless grass hopper numbers that are preventing stands from coming away as well as some higher numbers of pink cutworm that have prevented dryland lucerne stands from regrowing. This is a case of very slow pasture growth being suppressed even further by high pest numbers. Cutworm are hard to find and either need to be observed by inspecting paddocks at night when they are out foraging or by scraping back the soil or looking in lucerne crowns. Stand recovery has been slow regardless of pest and if the grazing can be delayed for 28 – 42 days to allow plants to

store some carbohydrate it may help stand life. Overgrazing can be a significant factor in stand decline particularly in older highly winter active stands, I expect we will see significant areas of plant number decline in many stands by autumn.

Pest numbers within those seed paddocks are currently extremely low. We did see huge numbers of blue green and cowpea aphids a few months ago but these have been replaced with massive beneficial numbers particularly ladybird beetles and other beneficials. At this early stage of the season we are seeing low native budworm numbers and more consistent numbers of green mirids as opposed to the high numbers of crop mirids we have seen in recent years.

Irrigation area is also down as much production area has been allocated to hay production, I would estimate the area of irrigated lucerne locked up for seed production to be 40-50% of last year's area. The areas remaining in seed production are generally those with contracts for varieties with which demand still exists or for growers whose soil type, water quality or available volume do not favour hay production or they lack the equipment & storage to make hay all season

## LUCERNE AUSTRALIA Members

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Cacia Downs Farming Co	Graetz, S & H	Kuchel, DJ & CE	Sanders, GE & LM
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# LUCERNE AUSTRALIA

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Elders Keith	RAGT	Wise Farm Equipment

# LUCERNE AUSTRALIA *Executive Committee*

Got a question for Lucerne Australia?

Contact the Executive Officer or any of our Executive Committee Members who will be happy to help.



**Ben Farmer, Chairman**  
Contact: 0438 501 269

Ben started with Alpha Group Consulting at Keith in 2013 before purchasing a lucerne property with his wife Rachel in December 2016. After a period of time with Nutrien Ag Solutions they began Wilkei Seeds trading a large portion of feed grains and supplying a wide range of pasture seeds both to seed exporters and businesses throughout Australia. Ben believes his direct experience within most facets of the lucerne seed supply chain brings a valuable and unique perspective to the LA Executive Committee.



**Rodney Lush, Deputy Chairman**  
Contact: 0419 862 510

Rodney farms with his wife Sally at Coombe, producing lucerne seed, lamb and wool since 1991. The farm production system is based around centre pivot and flood irrigated lucerne and rain fed perennial pastures. He also provides farm business advice and support to clients in the Mallee, South East and Western Victoria as a consultant with Proadvice.



**Danielle Lannin England,  
Executive Officer**  
Contact: 0439 538 332

Danielle is based at Keilira, where she is involved in a broadacre grains and Merino wool farming business with her husband Jonathan and his family. She has over 20 years' experience in agricultural extension and working with grower groups across Australia and brings to the lucerne industry strong governance, membership, strategic planning, project management and administrative skills.



**Greg Excell, Associate Member**  
Contact: 0408 838 684

Greg has more than twenty eight years experience in the seed industry. He has performed various roles including seed cleaning, grain drying and engineering, and has now purchased his own seed processing site called Limestone Coast Seeds.

Greg works collaboratively with both growers and marketers to ensure that only Lucerne seed of the highest quality is exported. From working in the seed business for many years it is obvious to Greg the many benefits that Lucerne Australia can offer the industry.



**Adam Zacker, Grower Member**  
Contact: 0417 853 799

Adam owns and operates the family farm at Tintinara with his wife Hannah. They run a mix of cropping, sheep (both self-replacing Merinos and prime lamb production), a herd of Angus cows and both dryland and irrigated lucerne seed and hay. Adam is passionate about the lucerne industry and its challenges.



**Will Secker, Grower Member**  
Contact: 0427 578 255

Will and his wife Sarah own and manage farms in the Keith area producing lucerne seed, lucerne hay, prime lambs and wool, winter crops and a small herd of Angus cattle. Since returning to the family farm in 2003, Will and Sarah have had a strong focus on irrigated lucerne seed production. Will is passionate about all facets of lucerne seed production and marketing.



**Harrison Berry, Grower Member**  
Contact: 0447 998 421

Harrison manages a family farming operation at Brimbago, south east of Keith with cropping and sheep enterprises and as well as producing flood irrigated and dryland Lucerne seed. Before returning to manage the Brimbago property 5 years ago, Harrison worked in the Mining industry and also the Civil/Construction industry. This variety has provided a range of different insights and learnings, but he has a strong passion for the agricultural industry and is keen to contribute in building the lucerne seed industry further.



**Ryan Vandeleur, Grower Member**  
Contact: 0400 577 767

Ryan farms in the Upper South East, 10 km east of Tintinara on the Dukes Highway. Vandeleur Rural Holdings is a family farming business with properties located in the Mid North and South East. Their properties are mixed farming businesses comprising of 'Rices Creek' poll merino sheep stud, Black Angus cattle, cropping, dry land and irrigated lucerne seed along with hay production.

Ryan brings to the committee insight into lucerne production, particularly lucerne seed and hay production. He is a passionate lucerne grower who works alongside our other like-minded people to continue to develop his knowledge around the lucerne industry.



**Aaron Keane, Associate Member**  
Contact: 0408 851 411

Aaron has been in the seed industry since 2008, starting with Seed Services Australia. During his time at Seed Services, he had a number of roles in both the laboratory and certification programs. In July 2023 he joined Barenbrug Australia as a Seed Production Agronomist, covering the Upper South-East across to the Eyre Peninsula.