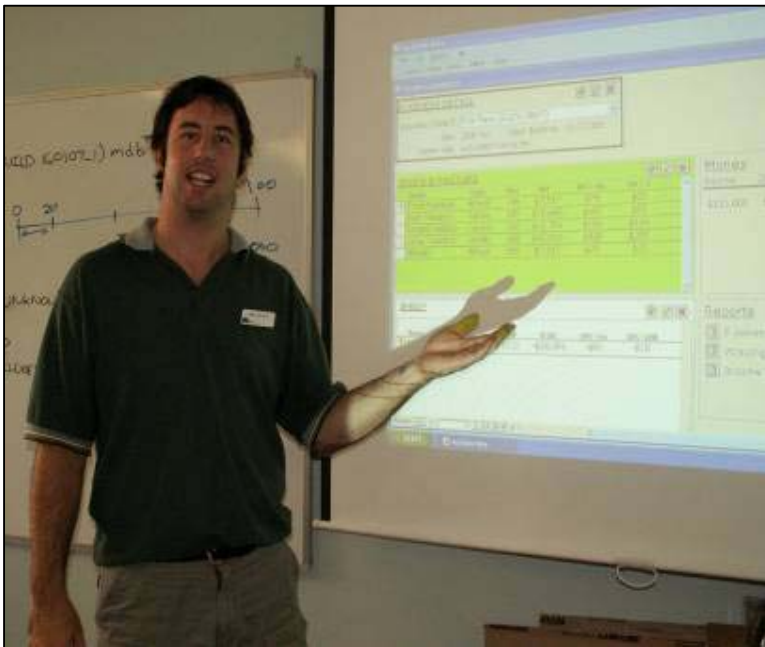


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OILSEEDS NEWS

STATE GOVERNMENT DROUGHT RECOVERY PROGRAM SOON TO BE RELEASED



PLANNING TO RECOVER:

Horsham DPI project development manager, Carl Sudholz, test his wares with industry representatives before the release of a farm budgeting computer program for drought recovery.

The Victorian Department of Primary Industries (DPI) is currently developing and testing a new computer program to enable farmers across Victoria to better manage their costs of production, planning, budgeting and recovery from drought.

The yet-to-be named program allows grain and sheep farmers to complete an entire 12 month plan and budget without any need for records or receipts.

The development of the program is a result of the Victorian Government's current drought relief initiatives.

DPI'S project development manager Carl Sudholz said the program was developed through funding provided by the State Government Drought Initiative announced in October.

"The program will require only very basic computer knowledge from landholders, who can use it to calculate the costs of production, profit margins and analyse the effect of climate variability on their business," Mr Sudholz said.

The program is designed for crop, pasture and sheep production or a mixture of these. Users simply enter what they do in their farm management and the program does the rest.

"Common agricultural products can be selected from lists that are relevant to particular farming operations and inputs, with the user having the ability to add products and change costs. The program can be used on an individual basis to suit each farmer's needs," said Mr Sudholz.

A five-year business analysis based on decile rainfall averages for growing regions around Victoria and yield estimation based on water use efficiency are further features of the program.

The program will undergo further testing through workshops to be held around the state in February before its public release.

If you would be interested in being involved in upcoming workshops or trialling the program please contact the Department of Primary Industries, Horsham on (03) 5362 2111.
