



IRRIGATED CROPPING FORUM

FELICITY PRITCHARD
Oilseed Industry Development Officer –
Victoria and southern New South Wales
Irrigated Cropping Forum
110 Natimuk Road, Horsham, Vic 3401
Ph: (03) 5382 4396 or 0427 600 228

Thursday, 10 August 2006
No. 17

OILSEEDS NEWS

CANE INDUSTRY REPS VISIT WIMMERA



NORTH MEETS SOUTH: Northern Queensland sugarcane representative met the Wallup Topcrop group to learn about grower groups.

add soybeans to their farming system, and to learn more about how successful farming groups share their knowledge and resources, in the face of restructuring of the sugar cane industry.

The group met in Horsham on Tuesday with Department of Primary Industries Senior Agronomist Dale Grey to learn about his experiences with soybeans, and with Sue

A delegation of representatives of the sugar cane industry descended upon the Wimmera this week, to meet with grain grower groups, and were amazed by the openness and dedication that they witnessed.

The group from northern Queensland came to discuss the opportunity to

Knights who leads a national oilseed agronomy project, as well as Oilseeds Industry Development Officer, Felicity Pritchard.

They then headed north to meet with the Wallup Topcrop group, who won the inaugural national Topcrop group award in 1998, to attend a Topcrop meeting and inspect local crops.

“We don’t have anything like this in the cane industry,” said Burdekin soybean and cane grower and farming group coordinator Andrew Lashmar.

“They do some great things, like the ‘stuff ups and successes’ day, for instance. The cane growers could really benefit from doing some of the things that the Wallup Topcrop group do. It’s just completely different from the way the cane industry has been operating,” he said.

“A lot of the cane groups aren’t very social, instead being focused on farming systems.”

Mr Lashmar said he was keen to bring a bigger group of cane growers back to the Wimmera to meet the Wallup Topcrop group again.

On Thursday the delegation headed to Rupanyup and Lubeck to meet with grain growers Andrew Weidemann and Peter Taylor to discuss their rotations and farming equipment.

They then met with Harm van Rees of the Birchip Cropping Group to view the group’s satellite demonstration sites, and discussed the prospect of interacting with each other through activities like an exchange farmer program, similar to exchange student programs.

(For more details, contact Andrew Lashmar, 0428 188 127.)
