Foreword

Spray application is an integral operation in modern grain farming systems. The control of weeds, diseases and pests in a timely manner, while minimising risks to the environment, requires that the spray operator has a good understanding of all of the components that can influence the outcome of each spray job.

This GRDC GrowNotes™ Spray application manual for grain growers, as part of the GRDC GrowNotes™ series has been designed in digital format to provide information on how various spraying systems and components work, along with things the operator should consider to ensure the sprayer is operating to its full potential. The focus of the content is on issues that will assist in maintaining the accuracy of the sprayer output while improving the efficiency and safety of spraying operations.

It includes practical information – backed by science – on sprayer set-up, including self-propelled sprayers, new tools for determining sprayer outputs, advice for assessing spray coverage in the field, improving droplet capture by the target, drift-reducing equipment and techniques, the effects of adjuvant and nozzle type on drift potential, and surface temperature inversion research. The GRDC is continuing to invest in making tools and resources available to growers to assist with spraying decisions.

Bill Gordon, editor and lead author of this manual, has delivered many GRDC training workshops, on improving spray application results and minimising off-target effects. Bill is highly regarded by his peers and by the grains industry as a whole in communicating to spray operators spraying best practice.

In addition, several other key players in the industry have contributed to the production of this manual. They have decades of experience in various aspects of spray application, which they have shared in the 23 modules that make up this GrowNotes™. Each module has a practical focus and, with the addition of video content, there are many ‘tips’ that applicators will find useful.

We hope GRDC GrowNotes™ Spray application manual for grain growers highlights the need for applicators to plan their operations, and to conduct their own research before upgrading components or replacing the sprayer.

Yours sincerely

Steve Jefferies
Managing director
Grains Research and Development Corporation
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Contributing authors

Mr Bill Gordon

Bill Gordon is well known for his work in spray application and drift management in Australia for more than 20 years. As a private consultant, Bill has delivered projects on behalf of the GRDC and other industry groups that have provided training on spraying best practice to over 10,000 Australian grain growers. Bill has also produced numerous publications and fact sheets on spray technology and drift management.

Editor and contributing author
Spray Application and Stewardship Specialist
Nufarm Australia Limited
Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia
bill.gordon@au.nufarm.com

Mr David Gooden

David Gooden is a broadacre cropping landowner and director of a family farming operation in southern NSW. He is responsible for managing crop production and spray application. David was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 2010 to study responsible pesticide application. He travelled for 16 weeks investigating application, research and regulation of pesticides, along with boom spray, nozzle, and pesticide manufacturing. He travelled to the UK, Ireland, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Canada, the USA, Mexico and Brazil. David focuses on maximising chemical effectiveness, reducing losses, timely management and safe operations. Along with his brother, Owen, he has developed a safe chemical transport, handling and mixing system which has been sold throughout NSW, Victoria and SA under the Gooden Welding brand.

Director and spray applicator
Agoodco Farm
Lockhart, NSW, Australia
dhgooden@gmail.com

Mr Craig Day

Craig Day has been delivering accredited chemical application training since 1993. During this time, Craig has also conducted a contract spraying business and farming enterprise. He was awarded a Pratt Foundation/ISS Institute Overseas Fellowship in 2010, specialising in European methodologies for training spray applicators and the requirements for testing sprayer machinery. Craig continues to deliver high-quality, practical spray application training across broadacre, turf and environmental industries.

Practical spray application accredited trainer and consultant
Spray Safe and Save P/L
Cowra, NSW, Australia
craig.day@bigpond.com
Mr Graham Betts ‘GB’
Graham spent nine years at Croplands Spray Equipment before starting ASK GB in 2000. Graham started one-on-one work on-farm, working on sprayers and helping spray application operators get the best out of their sprayers. This led to many years presenting spray application workshops around Australia. Graham is currently helping spray applicators select the best spray application equipment for their needs, matching up all farm machinery, and helping machinery operators get the best out of their machinery tyres and tractors. Helping with tyres includes weighing the tractors and/or machinery, adjusting tyre pressures, checking tractor balance, toe in/out, lead, helping clients select the best tyre for the situation and listing the best tyre pressures for each situation.

Spray application equipment, machinery layout and farm-machinery tyre specialist
Agricultural Spraying Kare Pty Ltd, T/A ASK GB
Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia
askgb@bigpond.com

Dr Tom Wolf
Tom Wolf is an owner of the Canadian-based company Agrimetrix, which specialises in the study of agricultural sprays. Tom has worked in application technology research and extension for more than 20 years, and was instrumental in introducing air-induction and pre-orifice nozzles to Canada. Recently Tom created the website Sprayers101.com and has developed several useful apps for growers.

Agrimetrix
Saskatoon, Canada
agrimetrix@gmail.com

Mr Andrew Storrie
Andrew Storrie has 36 years of research and extension experience in Australian agriculture. For the past 20 years he has specialised in agricultural and environmental weed management, herbicide resistance management, herbicide use and registration, herbicide drift and pesticide application.

For the past nine years as a private consultant he has been the executive officer of the Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group and delivered 70 workshops for growers and agronomists on integrated weed management for the GRDC as well as better spray application workshops for the GRDC and grower groups. He has written numerous publications, including as major author and editor of the GRDC’s Integrated Weed Management in Australian Cropping Systems.

Weed management and extension specialist
AGRONOMO
Albany, Western Australia, Australia
andrew@agronomo.com.au
@AgronomoOz
Dr Jorg Kitt

Jorg Kitt has worked in the agricultural industry for more than 25 years in roles including sales, marketing and sciences. He is involved in product development, training and stewardship. Jorg is an expert in adjuvants and application technology, focusing on improving efficacy and efficiency in broadacre and horticultural crops. He is the author of numerous publications including the Spraywise application handbooks.

Director, Kitt Consulting
West Croydon, South Australia, Australia
jorgkitt@gmail.com

Mr Tim Neale

Tim Neale is an AgTech veteran with over 20 years’ experience across many primary industries. Tim has seen the evolution of CTF, GPS autosteer, variable rate technology, big data, and now the internet of things. Tim has presented at over 40 conferences across Australia and internationally, and has managed more than 20 industry projects.

Principal Agricultural Consultant
Toowoomba, Queensland, Australia
timneale74@gmail.com