

Project Partners



Regional Coordinator



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The Liebe Group

The Liebe Group is a grower group located three hours north of Perth in the Northern Agricultural Region of WA. Members' properties cover more than one million hectares in the Dalwallinu, Coorow and Perenjori shires. The district is characterised by sandplain through to heavier loamy soils and lies within the medium to low rainfall zone, with annual average rainfall 250 to 400 mm.

Cropping is the focus among members, with wheat being the major cereal crop grown in rotation with lupins, barley or canola. However many growers still include livestock for rotational and risk aversion purposes.

The Liebe Group was established in 1997 to address the concern of the local area being isolated from existing agricultural research and development. The group embraces a whole systems approach to agriculture, while working to sustain and enhance the rural environment.



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Mingenew–Irwin Group

The Mingeneew–Irwin Group (MIG) is a farmer owned grower group based 380km north of Perth in the Northern Agricultural Region of WA. Annual rainfall across the region is generally 350–450 mm and soil types are typically sand plain and sand over gravel in the west, ranging to heavier soils such as grey clay and red loams in the east.

The Group was established in 1996 to improve economic and environmental sustainability, while demonstrating best practice farming methods. MIG has a current membership of 93 farmers, with the average farm size 3500 ha. Most members run a mixed farming operation, cropping 50–70% of their property to cereals and lupins, alongside a smaller but equally important livestock enterprise involving sheep and cattle.

There is an increasing level of interest in boosting the productivity of non-cropping country amongst members. This has typically been through the sowing of serradellas, medics and perennial pastures such as sub-tropical grasses, saltbush, tagasaste and rhagodia.



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Evergreen Farming

Evergreen Farming evolved in the West Midlands district in the 1990s with the aim of promoting perennial pastures. Graziers around Badgingarra started the group. They were looking for pasture species that would survive on their sandy soils, provide fodder over an extended period and slow the rate of recharge.

Trials showed that C4 or summer-growing perennial grasses were potentially very productive and able to survive dry summers.

Rainfall in the Badgingarra district is typically 500 to 600 mm. Both cattle and sheep production are a predominant part of the enterprise mix in the area, with farmers involved in varying amounts of cropping.



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Victoria Plains Landcare Management Group

The Shire of Victoria Plains has had a very active Landcare Management Group in past years. The Shire is located 150 km north east of Perth and covers a diverse array of landscapes and soil types—shallow gravel, deep sandy soils and complex duplex soils. Farmers are involved in cropping and livestock enterprises, with a predominance of livestock in the west of the shire. Many farms contain some salt-affected country, mainly confined to creeklines and gullies. Annual rainfall in the district averages 350 to 500 mm, with a trend in recent years to more rainfall out of the normal, winter growing season.



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Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC)

NACC is a non-profit organisation owned and directed by the people of the Northern Agricultural Region. The region covers an area of more than 7.5 million hectares, from Kalbarri in the north to Gingin in the south to the edge of farming country in the east. NACC manages natural resources in the region in partnership with local communities, and the three tiers of government, providing leadership, advice and on-ground support for natural resource management (NRM) issues and projects.

NACC administered the Grain & Graze funds in the NAR and committed more than \$500,000 of funding to the natural resource management research (NRM) component of the project.

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Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA)

The Department of Agriculture and Food assists the State's Agriculture, Food and Fibre sectors to be sustainable and profitable, with a clear focus on export-led growth. The Department enhances the international competitiveness of the State's agribusiness by working with them to meet the increasingly demanding standards for safety and quality of food and fibre products produced in a sustainable way.

DAFWA received funding from NACC and the National Landcare Program (NLP) to undertake the natural resource management research component of the Grain & Graze project. DAFWA staff worked closely with the Grain & Graze team to conduct research and extension on grazing cereals and perennial pastures.

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