



## Newsletter August 2019

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### Horticulture ahead of the pack in value and on-farm efficiency

A recent analysis of Australian agricultural industries has put horticulture at the forefront in sustainable practices.

A review of the latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that the Australian horticulture industry has the highest water efficiency of all agricultural industries returning \$6,200 of value per megalitre used in Gross Value of Production (GVP) terms.

Horticulture is now the second most valuable agricultural sector at \$10.2 billion. Horticulture also generated the highest GVP per hectare of production land used at \$31,486, with the second highest (viticulture) trailing at \$7,720.

And the horticulture industry also has the lowest total greenhouse gas emissions and lowest greenhouse gas emissions per \$ of GVP at 0.03 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

Looking at the whole product lifecycle, horticulture can attribute low greenhouse

gas emissions post-production to the high proportion of production located in peri-urban areas and surrounds.

Hort Innovation Research and Development Lead Dr Anthony Kachenko said the changing climate, high energy costs and the emergence of water-related issues such as salinity, water contamination, reduced environmental flows and supply security has brought greater attention to the importance of on-farm efficiency.

"With the increasing cost of agricultural inputs, such as water and energy, increasing the efficiency of these inputs remains an important issue for the industry," he said.

"What this data has shown is that while horticulture is intensive in terms of resource use, such as capital, labour, energy and water, it also a high value industry."

Dr Kachenko said horticulture had proved successful in its adoption of sustainable practices and moving forward, Hort Innovation would continue to support its industries to adopt greater sustainability

approaches that avoid negatively impacting the environment.

"Initiatives which increase on-farm efficiency will be critical to ensuring the horticulture industry can not only become more productive and profitable, but also improve environmental outcomes."

Hort Innovation is working to develop a Sustainability Framework for the horticulture sector to continue the momentum in this space.

### Membership Renewals

Have you recently received a membership alert from us? Don't worry - we're moving to a new membership database and it has a mind of its own. It is taking some time to work the kinks out – but we'll get it sorted soon.

Membership renewal notices will be sent out soon. We'll be double-checking on the contact details we've got on record for you then.

Only financial members are entitled to receive copies of Soilless magazine – so make sure you don't miss out by renewing promptly.

Accelerating success.  
Reach more people - better results faster.



## "GRAFTON BLU FARMS" QUALITY BLUEBERRY ASSET

**FOR SALE** by Expressions of Interest closing Thursday 29 August at 1pm (AEST)  
**GRAFTON, NEW SOUTH WALES**

HORTICULTURE



View video online

**ha**  
790\*  
hectares

Clarence Valley  
NSW

**H<sub>2</sub>O**  
300\*+ ML  
water supply

40\* ha in  
production

Significant expansion  
opportunity

\*Grafton Blu Farms is a quality blueberry operation located 25\*km from Grafton in the Clarence Valley, NSW. Established in 2016, this operation currently has 40\*ha of mixed summer and winter varieties of blueberries under protective netting. The opportunity exists for significant orchard expansion, in an ideal location close to the Pacific Highway.

Jim Guilfoyle  
0407 705 733

Rawdon Briggs  
0428 651 144

[colliers.com.au/211977](http://colliers.com.au/211977)

\*Approximately

[colliers.com.au](http://colliers.com.au)

## Hort Innovations 2019 AGM

The Hort Innovation AGM will be held on Friday, 22 November and will include the election of one (1) Director to the Hort Innovation Board, with two (2) other Directors to be appointed by the Board.

Your voting entitlement can be cast to determine the Director elected to the Company's Board by the members.

The candidates are currently being selected, with information to be circulated closer to the date and made available on the Hort Innovations website at [www.horticulture.com.au](http://www.horticulture.com.au) and through other channels.

Growers who wish to secure voting rights for the next 12 months need to either:

- complete the Annual Levy Return form online by Friday, 27 September by visiting <https://events.miraqle.com/HortInnovation/> and entering your unique Member Number H2887. You will also need to enter your Member Pin, which for security purposes will be sent in a separate email; or
- complete the Annual Levy Return form, which you will receive shortly by mail. Note, your form must be received by Friday, 27 September.

As well as for the 2018/19 financial year, members who paid a statutory levy or voluntary levy ('Producer Contribution') during the prior financial years of 2016/17 and 2017/18 may also complete an Annual Levy Return Form for each of those years at <https://events.miraqle.com/HortInnovation/>).

Voting entitlements are calculated on the average of payments over the 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/2019 financial years, so lodging an Annual Levy Return form for each year will maximise voting entitlement.

## Agrichemical Pest Management Needs and Priorities

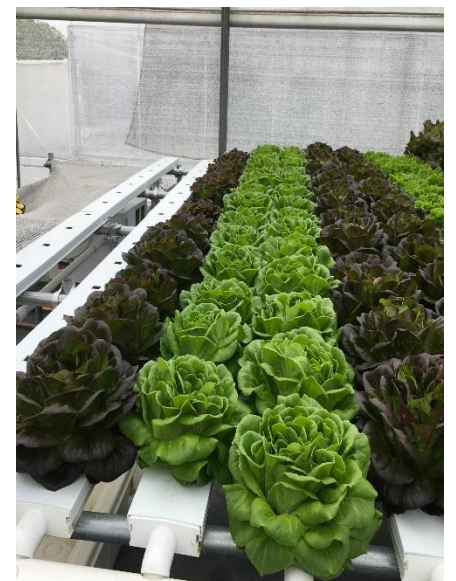
To establish direct grower interaction and ensure that the agrichemical needs of the vegetable sector are accurately recorded and understood, AUSVEG has commenced coordination of the project Vegetable Agrichemical Pest Management Needs and Priorities (VG16060), a strategic levy investment under the Hort Innovation Vegetable Fund. See the project factsheet here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2545kje>

The project's objective is to coordinate vegetable industry agrichemical pest needs by identifying and prioritising potential gaps through the implementation of an effective prioritisation process for the industry. A component of this study is to capture direct input from growers relating to individual crop commodities.

This will be done on a regional basis in conjunction with the existing Strategic Agrichemical Review Process and regional Industry Development Officers. Priority agrichemical gaps identified in this three-year project will inform industry actions at the annual AgChem Collaborative Forum, assist in updating industry SARPs and identify potential solutions to address these gaps.

The successful rollout of this project will result in an effective agrichemical prioritisation process for the vegetable industry through a high level of industry engagement and input, which will direct R&D funding for crop protection purposes.

See how you can be involved here: <https://ausveg.com.au/vg16060/>



# Snapshots

## Women's Leadership Program

Funding is available to support the development of female leaders across Australia's agriculture sector. The initiative is providing women with grants of between \$3,000 and \$7,000 to enable participation in one of three programs that cover such things as Presence and Presentation Skills, Leading Innovation and Change, and Emotional Intelligence and Conflict.

The scholarship funding is provided with the specific intent of providing effective development opportunities for women in the agriculture sector. Find out more by [registering](#) here by 13 September.

## Student survey on water use efficiency

If you are involved in greenhouse production, then the University of Sydney would like to hear from you! One of our student PCA members is completing her thesis on water use efficiency in the Australian greenhouse industry.

You can show your support by taking 10 - 15 minutes to anonymously share your insights on water use efficiency and water saving technology in greenhouses here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3ljzf3m>

Let's celebrate and support our next generation!

## Plant biosecurity risk analyses

The Australian Government Department of Agriculture has announced the release of the final report for Part 1 of the pest risk analysis for cut flower and foliage imports.

The department has also announced that from 1 September import permits will be required for cut flowers and foliage sent to Australia produced using a systems approach from Kenya, Colombia and Ecuador. More information about the changes to importing cut flowers and foliage to Australia is available on the department's website.

## Sex is the new weapon to fight fruit fly

Did you know that Queensland fruit fly is the most significant insect threat to Australia's \$13.2 billion horticultural industry?

This is why Hort Innovation, through the Hort Frontiers Fruit Fly Fund, is investing in research looking into how to produce male-only sterile fruit flies. When released into the wild, these flies will reduce the opportunity for wild females to reproduce, providing an efficient, cost-effective and environmentally safe control option. Read more here: <https://tinyurl.com/y2cbmecc>

## Listen and learn wherever you are

Hort Innovations recently launched a series of podcasts, Growing Matters, to provide an exciting new way to access information from levy-funded projects, research teams and other growers.

You can stream or download each episode from their website: <https://tinyurl.com/y3swlxgy>

## Guides to better pollination

New pollination guides for blueberries and melons are now available along with those for macadamias and avocados on the BeeAware website. Each brochure contains detailed information about the basics of pollination, the range of pollinators for the crop, and a checklist to ensure the best pollination results can be achieved. See more here:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4susmyk>



## USA Industry Mission

The Ausveg 2019 USA Industry Leadership and Development Mission provides nine members of the vegetable industry with the opportunity to attend Fresh Summit 2019, one of the premier fresh produce events in North America. The tour will visit many leading vegetable farms throughout California and one of the main leafy veg production areas in Yuma, Southern Arizona.

Please note this mission is only open to levy-paying vegetable growers and their employees.

Applications close Friday 6 September. Places are limited. If you're interested, contact [elyse.rosewall@ausveg.com.au](mailto:elyse.rosewall@ausveg.com.au).

## Nuffield Conference 2019

Join Nuffield Australia for their National Conference in Brisbane from 17-21 September. The event will showcase the 2018 Scholars' ability to learn from farmers around the globe and sow the seeds of change that see individuals, businesses and wider industry flourish. See more details [here](https://nuffield.com.au/2019-nuffield-australia-national-conference/): <https://nuffield.com.au/2019-nuffield-australia-national-conference/>

## Agtech responding to climate risk

While farmers have been adopting technologies that add value for decades, the 'Agtech...so what?' podcasts produced by the Australian Farm Institute delve into how agtech – from accelerators to venture capital funds to robots – can impact farmers and the industry.

Featuring innovators working at the intersection of agriculture and technology, the podcasts aim to look beyond the jargon and dig into the key question about agtech: *so what?*

Catch up on previous episodes online and keep an eye out for the next ones here: <https://www.agtechsowhat.com/>

## AgriEducate essay competition open

The popular AgriEducate Essay Competition is back for 2019. With a prize pool of \$4,000, undergraduates and postgraduates from several disciplines at any Australian university have the opportunity to win.

Applications close 31. October Find out more: <https://agrieducate.com.au/essay-competition/>

## Got a bright idea?

Applications are open for the Science and Innovation Awards for Young People in Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, a competitive annual grants program recognising and supporting young Australians aged 18-35 by funding projects that will benefit Australia's primary industries.

Since 2001, the Science and Innovation Awards have helped more than 250 young researchers, innovators and scientists turn their ideas into reality through more than \$4 million in grant funding.

Sound like something you want to be part of? Jump to it and get started on your application! More information here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5j5lwe5>.