

FARM BUSINESS UPDATE 2026

High Performing Farms



Kimba Football Netball Club North Terrace, Kimba SA

Kadina Football Club Doswell Avenue, Kadina SA

Registration: 9am for a 9.30am start. Finish 3:15pm.
Cost: Free – please register for catering purposes

Morning tea, lunch and booklet included.

[Click to register for Kimba](#)

[Click to register for Kadina](#)

For further information contact ORM Pty Ltd
03 5441 6176 or admin@orm.com.au

The program features a great line up of topics that have been identified as priorities by grain growers and advisers in your region and across Australia.

GRDC Farm Business Updates facilitate the adoption of innovative and leading-edge farm business practices that drive high performing farms.

Topics:

- Tools for practical decision making. *Bill Long, Ag Consulting Co*
- AI in the farm business - opportunities and risks. *Phill Guthrie, 3EC*
- High performing farm businesses – inspiration from Australia's leading growers. *Oli Le Lievre, Humans of Agriculture*
- 'Filling your silo' - farming through uncertainty. *Steph Schmidt, Farm Life Psych*
- Building storage to manage input supply risk – is it worth it? *James Hillcoat, Pinion Advisory*
- Precision weed management tech – assessing the risk/reward. *Megan Star, Star Economics and special guest local growers*

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SA KIMBA, WEDNESDAY 1 JULY
 Kimba Football Netball Club, North Terrace, Kimba

SA KADINA, THURSDAY 2 JULY
 Kadina Football Club, Doswell Avenue, Kadina

9.30am to 3.15pm
 (doors open at 9.00am for a 9.30am start)

MAKING BETTER DECISIONS

Join Bill Long (farm consultant and grower) and Phill Guthrie (AI and technology expert) for an interactive session on the application of artificial intelligence (AI) in farm management decision making.

Tools for practical decision making.

Taking a strategic approach to decision making in farm businesses can be challenging in today's data heavy environment. Recognising some decisions deserve deeper thinking — and some don't, Bill's practical approach outlines tools and frameworks you can apply for simple, complicated or complex decisions.

Bill considers systems we use now and takes a practical look at how AI might enhance the process – to consider variables, scenarios and biases, for more informed decision making.



AI in the farm business - opportunities and risks.

When it comes to using artificial intelligence (AI) as an effective tool in the farm business – where can it be useful and are there efficiencies to be gained?

Phill Guthrie works at the intersection of agriculture, technology adoption, farm data systems and AI, with a focus on making emerging tools practical and useful in farm businesses.

Today Phill focuses on the practical application of AI in grain businesses, where the technology is heading, and what growers should be mindful of.



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RESILIENT PEOPLE, RESILIENT BUSINESSES

High performing farm businesses – inspiration from Australia’s leading growers.

Top-performing businesses stand out in how they lead, manage people and shape their culture.

Humans of Agriculture founder and podcast host, Oli Le Lievre shares stories highlighting the traits, people skills and culture underpinning leading farm businesses, and what “success” can look like across different operations.

Take away tips to strengthen your own team and develop opportunities for the next generation of farm leaders in your business.



**OLI
LE LIEVRE**

‘Filling your silo’ - farming through uncertainty.

The variable nature of farming is a clear reason to stock your toolbox with skills and strategies to maintain energy, perspective and judgement as challenges and opportunities are navigated.

Keep track of where you’re at with Steph’s practical framework and take home every-day strategies you can use to ‘top up your silo’.



**STEPH
SCHMIDT**

INVESTMENT FOCUS – INFRASTRUCTURE & TECH

Building storage to manage input supply risk – is it worth it?

With risk management around input price and supply volatility front of mind – do recent shocks justify building storage and investing in long-term infrastructure?

Considering the return on investment and opportunity cost, James outlines methods for assessing opportunities and prioritising capital spending in a strategic way whilst weighing up risk.



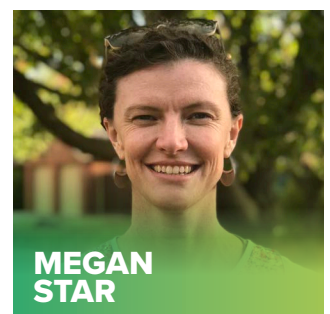
**JAMES
HILLCOAT**

Precision weed management tech – assessing the risk/reward.

Special guest growers, Tristan Baldock and Andrew Baldock, share their perspectives on implementing precision weed management tech (Kimba). Paul Jarrett shares insights on his system in Kadina. Linking the grower experience - Ag economist, Megan Star, reviews the capital investment required, ongoing costs and other considerations in assessing the fit for your business.

This session includes;

- economics of precision weed management tech options,
- grower perspectives on benefits, challenges and impact on farm business management.



**MEGAN
STAR**