



October update

Welcome to our October eNews update. Hello to our new members! This eNews is designed to inform, educate and inspire our Tasmanian hemp network. Please [email us](#) with any inclusions for next month.

In this newsletter:

- HATas member thank you packs in the mail
- 19/20 Contracts
- AgriFutures National Hemp Cultivars Trial - have your say!
- UTAS plant growth regulant trial by honours student, Hannah Cummins
- New contractor enters Tasmanian market
- UTAS research trial by Rohan Borojevic
- Meet Chris Bayles of Chanak Farm

HATas thank you packs

A thank you pack for all of your support to growers and members from HATas was posted earlier this week! These packs included a branded HATas cap (made from hemp, naturally), and two useful presentations: agronomic insights helpful to hemp

farmers from Macquarie Franklin's Jason Lynch and consultant, Rob Eccles. We hope you find these practical to your upcoming hemp season.

If you haven't received the pack and would like one please call Tim Castle on 0499 244 367 or secretary@hata.org.au.

2019-20 contracts

Red Agri and ECS Botanics are still looking for more area so please call them to discuss:

Red Agri - Hamish Chugg 0435 829 286 or hamish@redagri.com.au

ECS Botanics - Alex Keach 0419 323 059 or alex@ecsbotanics.com.au

Please call ASAP as planting seed needs to be organised.



AgriFutures National Hemp Cultivar Trial engaging Tasmanian hemp farmers - we need your feedback so please come along

AgriFutures and HATas are hosting a meeting to be held this **Wednesday, 6 November from 10am - 11am at Longford Town Hall, 67 Wellington St**, to discuss the AgriFutures National Hemp Cultivar Trial. All HATas members

are encouraged to attend to ensure your voice is heard and outcomes of the trial can benefit you. HATas are very strongly advocating that the trial should include whole of plant application too position for the change in legislation to allow for hurd, stockfeed and nutrient application not just grain.

Please note the meeting location change.



UTAS honours project trial - HATas is investing in growth regulant trial

UTAS honours student, Hannah Cummins, is conducting a plant growth regulant trial on Phillip Cummins' property at Hagley. The project will investigate the effects of four different plant growth regulants; applied as a single or split application to hemp seed crops to regulate height and growth rate. The field trial will be located within a Midlands Seed crop of CFX-2.

Hannah is collaborating with the following industry contributors:

- HATas' Tim Schmidt and Tim Castle
- The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture's Tina Acuna and Sue Hinton
- TP Jones' Michelle Hogarth and Emily Ruffo
- Southern Farming Systems' Ian Herbert
- Midlands Seed's Konrad Chung.

As crop height and dry male plants cause difficulties during harvest, this trial study aims to see a reduction in crop height which could potentially increase efficiencies for harvest and reduce the levels of "straw" that remains after harvest. The trial will evaluate any influence of plant growth regulants on seed yield, maturity across the seed head, stem thickness, height to various nodes, and total height.

Hannah's field trial will be conducted during the 2019-20 hemp growing season, completing her thesis by November 2020.

HATas is pleased to be a sponsor of this UTAS initiative. HATas will ensure results are published.

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your harvesting requirements**

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New hemp contractor available

HATas is pleased that additional contracting capacity has entered the market to support growers.

Established contractor, Sam Archer, of Woodside Park, has sowing, spraying, harvesting equipment and trucks available to manage the growing and harvesting of hemp crops.

Please give him a call to discuss your cropping needs on 0418 178 666.



UTAS field trial at Cressy to commence in November

The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) has conducted several research projects on industrial hemp recently. Projects have included variety trials, irrigation research and an assessment of the grazing potential of hemp stubble. Following on from the research into the potential of stubble grazing a project was designed to assess the nutritional value of actively growing hemp.

The research is currently being conducted by TIA honours student, Rohan Borojevic and will involve a field trial at Cressy, as well as glasshouse trials in at UTAS. The aim is to look at the metabolisable energy, ADF, NDF, Fat, Protein and minerals and at several vegetative growth stages and establish if it would be suitable for grazing. In addition to the nutritional value the regrowth potential will also be assessed to see how the plant responds to grazing. Results are expected mid-way through 2020.

HATas is a proud sponsor of this initiative.



Member profile: Chris Bayles, Chanak Farm (Cressy)

Chris Bayles, 30, has returned home to the family farm after completing studies at Marcus Oldham College. His family's business is diverse; mixed land class from river flats of the Macquarie River to foot hills and bush and a total land area of 2,300 hectares.

Life before hemp

Chris and his family were growing 800 tonne of peas and 1500 tonne of potatoes prior to incorporating hemp into their crop rotation. Winter cereals such as wheat, oats and canola, plus spring barley are grown. Fodder is another large aspect to their business, lucerne mainly, and grass seed crops. The farm also includes 3,500 breeding sheep, they finish off a number of weaner lambs, plus raise 400 head of beef.

Introducing hemp as a crop rotation option

Chris' father grew hemp 10-12 years ago with Phill Reeder and Konrad Chung. Back then the crop was successful, but extremely difficult to handle, hence the decision to stop growing. Now that demand is growing significantly, Chris was confident to give hemp another try given the variety and knowledge around hemp had improved. Hemp is a later crop option which suits the farm rotation in regards to timing, water demands and the fact that its very low risk.

"I told Dad in 2018 I think we should have another go at growing hemp," he said. His father's response was cautious given past experiences with "ropey" harvest handling practices of yesteryear.

"Once I told him a contractor was coming to harvest it with a header set up, his eyebrows rose," Chris said.

Chris says hemp is a great option for failed crops. For example, last year he had hemp already signed up but in the mean time had a failed seed grow that was sprayed out during the first week of December. He replaced it with hemp. His was one of the last paddocks sown in the state, but Chris said it yielded and paid its way.

Inspirational contributors to the hemp industry

Chris is very passionate about the industry and is keen to be a part of its growth. He would like to venture overseas for learning experiences in the near future. To Chris, his inspirational industry contributors are the people working hard on legislation reform.

"People such as the late Phill Reeder, and Tim Schmidt are pushing the industry forward. It's one product with so many potential uses that just needs unlocking. There are a few key people working extremely hard to get it unlocked for the benefits of everyone in the industry," he said.

Advice for farmers entering their first hemp season

Chris suggests working closely to your agronomist and the buyer. "Attend the hemp field days and work shop sessions if you can. I found that they are very knowledgeable and there are a lot of take home messages," he said.

Growing the crop is pretty simple, he offers, "Feed it and water it. Hemp responds extremely well and it grows like mad. Get on and over the paddocks while you can so you don't damage a growing crop with a tractor. A key bit of advice is once its flowering don't turn your back on it, keep an eye out for insects and caterpillars."

A message to farmers considering hemp as an option

"Get into it. I think it's a great option, its low risk, it's easy to grow, not very time consuming. You do need to respond quick to application," he said.

Chris suggests with the increasing demand for food, oil, seed, fibre and mulch growing rapidly, paired with a strong Tasmanian brand based on our clean, green state image, the industry will be supported.

"This is my opinion, but if you have the ability to pay the association levies, then please do so. It's for your own benefit and others in the industry. There are a lot of hurdles yet to jump in the industry but with the support and finance to put forward such cases, the crop will be very profitable in the long run. Our association puts workshops and field days on, so get amongst them. There is also an annual growers dinner and top crop prize. The night was very good last year. If you get the chance to go, then do so!"

Thanks, Chris!

Fun fact

Did you know Chris is also a national moto trails competitor? Handy with hemp, and the two-wheeler!

Connect with Chris by contacting: 0438 368 487

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