



June 6th, 2019

Start thinking about South Island Agricultural Field Days 2019

With just under 300 days until the next South Island Agricultural Field Days (SIAFD) take place, organisers are already at work preparing to host the event and exhibitors can now register on-line to reserve a site.

SIAFD take place Wednesday 27th March through Friday 29th March, 2019 at the permanent venue on Courtenay Road, Kirwee.

This year the SIAFD organising committee has a new secretary and events co-ordinator, Tineka Johnstone.

Originally from Hawarden and then Methven, Tineka is well-known to many in Canterbury's farming community through her work with the Red Meat Profit Partnership (RMPP) and NZ Young Farmers.

She says an online application form is now available on the SIAFD website, along with a prospectus that provides all the information exhibitors need to know regarding how the field days will be run, payment, advertising options, and award competitions.

"We want potential exhibitors to start thinking about their options and register early. We are upgrading the website so at present it looks a bit barebones, but the all necessary information is there. The new-look website will be up and running by the end of June."

Tineka says SIAFD is well-known for its machinery demonstrations and this will again be a major attraction. Exhibitors are encouraged to put their latest machines through their paces.

"Normally the chair of the SIAFD changes for each field days, but because I am new to the role of secretary, Rodney Hadfield has stayed on for another term.

"Michaela McLeod will serve as vice chair and Andrew Stewart will be in charge of organising the crops that will be used in the machinery demonstrations," she says.

SIAFD media liaison person Daniel Schat says a number of working bees have already been held to prepare the field days site for next year.

"This will be the third field days we have had at our Kirwee site, and we are gradually upgrading the facilities. Rain in the lead up to the last field days in 2017 left the laneways muddy, which meant extra work to get them ready for the public," Daniel says.

“This year we are using hard fill from the Central Plains Irrigation scheme to gravel the lanes so we will be ready if we do get wet weather. Thanks to Nathan Stewart and the Cresslands Contracting team, Downers, Porter Equipment, Digout Services, and Rooneys for their help in getting this done.”

A new addition to SIAFD 2019 is the Smart Farming Award. The award recognises the new technology that farmers can use to gather data, make better decisions, operate their businesses more efficiently, and communicate with their advisers and suppliers.

Farming consultants Agri Magic is sponsoring the Smart Farming Award. The winner will receive \$1500 and the runner-up will receive \$500. The winner will be announced prior to SIAFD 2019 so that they can take advantage of publicity during the field days.

For further information contact Tineka Johnstone on 03 318 1845 or info@siafd.co.nz or visit www.siafd.co.nz.

Captions:

1 – Heading up efforts to organise South Island Agricultural Field Days 2019 are (from left) Rodney Hadfield, Tineka Johnstone, and Michaela McLeod.

2 & 3 --- The SIAFD organising committee is laying gravel the site's laneways to ensure wet weather will not disrupt the field days.