

APPLICATIONS OPENING SOON FOR 2017 GRFL 'GLOBALISING GROWERS' TOUR TO U.S.

Aimed at younger generation grain farmers, this trip to the United States is a highly successful capacity building tour and should be considered as an alternative to longer leadership courses.

It is the third tour to the U.S. organised by the Grains Research Foundation Ltd (GRFL) and has evolved from the initial 2014 Texas trip, to now covering Texas, Kansas and Illinois. *National Sorghum Producers, Texas A&M University, Kansas State University and Illinois Corn* are just a few of the places which will be visited on the 2017 tour.

Aims of the 'Globalising Growers' tour which will run for around eleven days (on the ground) at the beginning of August are:

- To expand knowledge of US farming organisation structures and funding.
- To understand how research priorities are captured and then prioritised.
- To increase awareness of research being undertaken in the U.S.
- To consider what research needs to come to Australia.
- To participate in hands-on industry projection modeling at Texas A&M University.

2015 participant, Luke Skerman, says, *'The trip was a fantastic chance to get out and see how farming, research and development, logistics, marketing, and ag sector politics happens in a different part of the world. The trip also is a great way of networking with like-minded young people from here in Australia, as well as creating valuable relationships with fellow farmers, researchers, and others in the ag world to better keep up with advances, and an exciting way of exposing yourself to new ways of doing things.'*

The trip has given me a greater appreciation of the research and development that goes into the crops we grow and a hunger to learn more about how we do things here at home, and an eagerness to get involved with research projects and trials. The tour also gave me a greater appreciation of the global market we are competing in, which highlighted for me the importance of staying up to date with the latest farming practices, breeding and genetics, as well as technology to help make my farm as productive as possible.'

All young grain farmers are encouraged to apply for this worthwhile tour. Up to fifteen participants will have their costs partially subsidised by the GRFL, however, full fare participants are also welcome to participate.

Applications open on Friday, 24th March 2017 and close on Monday, 24th April 2017. Successful applicants will be announced on Friday, 5th May 2017.

Please visit grf.org.au for more information and to access the application form.