

Solve your ag engineering problems

By John McPhee, chairman Society of Engineering in Agriculture

A special feature of the AgEng 2002 conference, to be held in Wagga Wagga in September, will be a national competition for Australian farmers. An invitation is extended to all farmers to submit an engineering-related problem that has been nagging them. The most challenging problem will be selected for consideration at a conference workshop, during which the collective problem-solving talents of those present will be applied in an attempt to find a solution.

The farmer who submits the problem chosen for the workshop will win a prize of a five kVA diesel-powered generator and a trip to the Henty Machinery Field Days and the conference.

The theme of AgEng 2002, which runs from September 26–29 is “Does Australia still need engineering in agriculture?”

An optional pre-conference tour will take in the Henty field days, which concludes on the day the conference starts.

There will be two days of technical presentations and sessions, followed by technical tours to various industry and research and development sites in the Riverina area.

AgEng 2002 is sponsored by the Institute of Engineers Australia, the American Society of Agricultural Engineers, Charles Sturt University, the Henty Machinery Field Days, Society for Engineering in Agriculture (SEAg), the International Commission of Agricultural Engineering (CIGR) and Countrywide Farm Services.

The SEAg annual general meeting will be held during the conference. There will be three vacancies on the national committee and

nominations are sought from members.

SEAg has held biennial conferences since the 1970s in locations ranging from Bundaberg to Geelong and from Perth to Christchurch. Despite the ups and downs that agriculture and the engineering profession have experienced over the years, attending the conference has always been a good opportunity for people interested in engineering in agriculture to catch up with colleagues and peers. Many members of SEAg work as individuals or in isolated groups in regional areas in Australia. Maintaining contact with others in the profession is always a challenge, even in these days of email. But the conference is open to any interested person to attend and farmers and others with an interest in engineering in agriculture are most welcome.

Why not attend and catch up with the latest in engineering in agriculture, and network during the breaks and the social occasions? Come to the conference and take the opportunity to make new contacts and renew old friendships over a few Charles Sturt University wines — the quality of which I can recommend on the basis of personal experience!

Details of the conference can be found at <http://www.csu.edu.au/special/ageng2002/about.htm>

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