



## **PRODUCERS CAN ACCESS FARBIS FUNDING FOR QA TO MEET GRAIN BUYERS' REQUIREMENTS**

FarmBis funding is currently available in South Australia for training in quality assurance (QA) programs that will satisfy the growing push from international buyers for traceability and assurances on their grain purchases.

The availability of the funding and the need for producers to participate in quality assurance programs were the key messages coming from a meeting last week. The meeting, including representatives of AusMalt, ABB Grain, AWB Ltd, AusBulk, the South Australian Farmers' Federation and the Grains Council of Australia, was convened to discuss the need for on-farm quality assurance (QA) and traceability to meet customers' requirements.

"International buyers of grain are rapidly moving to require their suppliers provide them with assurances on the contaminant-free status and full traceability of their grain back to the source," Mr Andrew Gee, Chief Operating Officer of AusMalt said today. "In particular, the malting barley industry is very much the focus of attention at present, with a number of major international brewing companies seeking traceability for the grain purchased from Australian malting companies."

Mr Gee said "The industry must be united on this issue so that we can stay ahead of our competitors. We therefore need the support of growers in ensuring that the integrity of the supply chain from the paddock to the end-user can be guaranteed. Adoption of QA by producers will enable the industry to maintain and expand these sensitive markets."

"However, producers should be aware that the FarmBis funding will only be available until mid-June and they should contact SAFF quickly to take up this opportunity."

Mr Simon McNair, ABB Grain's General Manager Operations, said, "ABB Grain has commenced a pilot program to demonstrate traceability for some of our customers". ABB Grain has recently held meetings with growers regarding a pilot program and explained the requirements coming from their customers and the ways growers can meet those requirements.

Mr Geoff Masters, Client Services Manager of AusBulk, said "Growers can provide the necessary link to the bulk handlers' and marketers' internal QA systems by adopting on-farm QA so they are easily able to provide assurances that their grain is free from contamination by chemicals or other threats to food and feed safety."

Mr Gerard McMullen, Manager Quality Assurance and Hygiene for AWB Ltd, said AWB has also had enquiries from some customers about traceability and food safety assurances back to the farm and believes an integrated QA system from farm to port will be necessary in the near future.

The group acknowledged *Graincare* as a program that met the minimum food safety requirements for the majority of customers, but noted that the industry needed to also look at other programs or modules of *Graincare* to ensure it could continue to meet more sophisticated or specialist assurance requirements from customers.

Growers interested in accessing FarmBis funding for *Graincare* training can contact SAFF (08 8232 5555), access information on the *Graincare* website at [www.graincare.com.au](http://www.graincare.com.au) or telephone 1300 781 411.