

MEDIA RELEASE

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Keep soil erosion in mind when season starts

Farmers around the state are being reminded to carefully weigh up the soil erosion risks when preparing for sowing this year.

They need to consider the consequences of cultivation or stubble burning, says Advisory Board of Agriculture chairman Neville Ferme.

He said erosion control measures are always of prime concern, regardless of the season.

“South Australian landowners have built a strong reputation for having a responsible approach to soil management,” Mr Ferme said.

“We have improved our no-till and stubble retention practices, particularly during the drought years.

“With this year’s promising season, we still need to remember to approach burning off and increased cultivation cautiously in the lead-up to seeding.”

Mr Ferme, who farms in the Upper North, acknowledged that while burning and cultivation are useful land management tools, they should be undertaken with care.

However, he said the ABA supports the adoption of no-till and stubble retention for better land management.

“These practices provide cropping land with the best protection from erosion.”

He said the three useful tips to remember were:

- Instead of ploughing, use a knock-down herbicide to control weeds prior to sowing.
- If burning of stubble is required, burn as late as practical and only burn sufficient stubble to allow the seeding equipment through.
- If stubbles have been burnt, sow using no-till or direct drill.

The ABA is the governing body of the Agriculture Bureau of SA. Go to www.agbureau.com.au

For further information on soil conservation go to the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation website at www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au.



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