CropSafe
A biosecurity network – Does it work?

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Why a biosecurity network?

Protect industry from new/exotic diseases
• Victorian broadacre grain production >$1.8 billion (ABARES 2014-15)

Protect export markets
• Value of Australian cereal grains, pulses and oilseeds is over $11.5 billion (abares 2014-2015) with 8.8 billion in exports
• Area of Freedom (AoF) data
CropSafe- protecting Victoria’s grains industry

• Started in 2007
• Plant samples submitted by industry
• Industry provide area (ha) of crops monitored
How CropSafe diagnostics work

**Farmer or non CropSafe agronomist/advisor**
Finds an unknown pest or disease

**CropSafe agronomist/advisor**
Network of over 185 agronomist across Victoria

**Sample identified/not exotic**

**Crop Health Services**
Team of specialists based at Bundoora, conduct formal identification

**Sample identified/not exotic**

**Chief Plant Health Officer**
Biosecurity Victoria advised and action plan developed

**Sample is exotic**

**Agriculture Victoria plant pathologist**
Small team of specialists based at Horsham

**Sample not identified/exotic**

**Sample identified/not exotic**
“The Carrot”

• Provide diagnostic support
• Disease ID training opportunities
• Point of contact for 85% of Vic agronomists
• In season disease newsletters or cropalerts
What do we get in return for “free diagnostics”

- Surveillance data
- Area of freedom
- In season disease intelligence
- A network of advisors
But can agronomists detect exotics?

An advisor in the CropSafe network was the first to detect RWA in Victoria in 2016

- Workshop on RWA identification
- Within weeks established breadth of spread in Vic
Unusual diseases/symptoms submitted

- Botrytis lesions on lentil flowers
- Ascochyta symptoms on resistant varieties
- Powdery mildew on wheat
- Insects that are a different colour to what they normally see
Keeping Victoria free from exotic diseases

• Surveillance
• Area of freedom
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Frank Henry, Ag Vic