On-Farm Experimentation Community Info No. 43

Dec 9, 2025

On-Farm Experimentation Community (OFE-C)

International Society of Precision Agriculture (ISPA)

Co-editor of the Month December 2025

Thanks to my co-editor of the month, Professor Katherine Evans, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, University of Tasmania, Australia.

Dairy HIGH 2 – Farmers and Scientists Testing Forage Innovations Together

Dairy HIGH 2 is working with Tasmanian dairy farmers to trial new forage options and grazing strategies directly on commercial farms. By pairing farmer experience with scientific measurement, the project evaluates how different pasture mixes perform in real conditions, from feed quality to animal productivity and farm profitability. This collaborative, on-farm testing approach reflects many OFE principles—farmers experimenting on their own land while researchers help interpret results and guide decision-making. Learn more here.

Research-driven thinning gives apple growers the edge

Tasmanian apple growers are partnering with University of Tasmania researchers to test new, data-driven thinning strategies directly in their orchards. By experimenting with different thinning timings and approaches on their own trees, growers gain clearer insights into how these decisions affect fruit size, yield, and profitability. Researchers support the process with measurement and analysis, helping growers interpret results and refine their practices. Lern more here.

Tool Spotlight: Assessing the Risks and Rewards of New Farm Practices

The Soil CRC's new **Risk/Reward Tool** helps farmers and advisers quickly interpret trial results by presenting clear, decision-focused summaries of what a practice might offer and under what conditions it is likely to succeed. Designed with input from farmers and farming groups, the tool provides concise visuals and trial reports that highlight context, risk, and expected outcomes. This format aligns well with OFE, supporting farmers who run their own experiments and the advisers and scientists who help them make sense of the results. You can download the document here.

The SIMONE participatory research project

The SIMONE project brings together farmers, advisors, and researchers across North-West Europe to test agroecological practices directly on working farms. Through its Living Labs, SIMONE supports

farmers in co-designing trials on weed control, crop nutrition, and resilience, while using shared tools to monitor technical, environmental, and economic outcomes. Its emphasis on farmer participation, multi-performance evaluation, and real-farm testing makes SIMONE a strong example of how collaborative experimentation can drive more sustainable farming systems. Learn more here.

Lunch & Learn: Insights from the APEN Conference

Read the blog and watch the video here or listen to the podcast of Denise and John from Enablers of Change discuss their insights from the Australasia-Pacific Extension Network (APEN) Conference held in Australia, October 2025. Hot topics included Human-AI partnerships.

Research spotlight: Improving OFE data for machine learning models

Machine learning (ML) models can predict optimal nitrogen fertilizer rates using trial crop responses and related grain growing data. Calaço *et al.* (2025) argue that on-farm experimental data for ML models can be improved by prioritising more and simpler experiments across a region than field-specific models from replicated whole-field designs. Available here.

OFE relevant call for paper: Wise agricultural systems

Current call for papers by Agricultural Systems journal on Wise agricultural systems: A systems approach to digital transformation. This call is relevant for the OFE community because it promotes systems-based, participatory approaches to digital agriculture that align with how learning and innovation occur directly on farms. **Submission deadline: 30 June 2026**. More information here.

This letter was prepared by Louis Longchamps, co-chair of the ISPA OFE Community
Should you have something to share with the Community or the Community leaders, let us know here.