



CHAMPIONING CAREERS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR



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## Innovation in South Australian agricultural education

**Presenters:** Belinda Cay (Director, AgCommunicators), Sue Pratt (Lead Ag Teacher, AgCommunicators) and Damien Brookes (Ag Coordinator, Urrbrae Agricultural High School and President Agricultural Teachers Association of SA – ATASA)

**Workshop summary:** The design, implementation and findings of two innovative programs introduced in SA in 2022 – the Lead Ag Teacher role and the SA Ag Careers Hub.

**PIEFA Conference themes addressed:**

- Theme 3: Successes and Innovation in Education • Theme 4: Careers and Workforce in Primary Industries

>> The Lead Ag Teacher role is industry funded to support agriculture teachers in all education sectors by reviewing curriculum, developing resources and connecting schools with industry and community partners.

>> The SA Ag Careers Hub, supported by the Australian Government's National Careers Institute, works in partnership with Urrbrae Agricultural High School and utilises 30 trained industry ambassadors to visit schools, host industry site visits and immersive experiences, deliver weekly in-school careers sessions and host professional development for teachers.

### FIVE TOP TIPS FOR CAREER PRESENTATIONS IN SCHOOLS

1. Check the class demographic and pitch it to match them.
2. Ensure “street cred” by giving your back story.
3. Ensure two 7-8 minute interactive or hands-on activities per presentation.
4. Make strong links to industry applications.
5. Ask for 3 or 4 pre-determined questions from the class.

### FIVE KEY FINDINGS

1. Package agriculture as sustainable food production with problem solving, innovation and opportunities.
2. Young industry mentors and inspiring industry mentors can support teachers by delivering knowledge on industry relevant R&D and careers in combined sessions.
3. Students value interactivity, experience sharing, engagement and real-world experiences.
4. Providing schools with bus vouchers or travel support is welcomed to assist with tight budgets.
5. The ag industry needs to work together to showcase pathways using modern terminology, language and subject selection information.

### FIVE SOLUTIONS TO KEY ISSUES FOR SCHOOL AG PROGRAMS

1. Curriculum mapping for focused and effective programs.
2. Getting into Ag teaching workshops for inexperienced teachers.
3. Five-year strategic plans for infrastructure development.
4. Regional Year 12 student workshops for small senior classes.
5. Individualised, on-site support for regional teachers.