Onions Industry Event
Hort Connections 2024
June 4, 12 - 3pm, Meeting Room 214

This session will provide insights into the latest onion research and innovation for Australian onion levy payers. Presentations will focus on current and future innovations with potential to bring management benefits to Australia fresh and process onion growers.

Guest Speakers

Dr. Daniel Drost, USA researcher
Professor Emeritus of Horticulture & former Extension Vegetable Specialist Department of Plants, Soils and Climate at Utah State University
Integrated management in onions - learnings from international systems for Australia

Simon Drum, Managing Director PSVC Advisory
LEAN principles in onion production

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Time Table

Time	Event	Hosted by
12pm - 12:30pm	Lunch	-
12:30pm - 12:45pm	Introduction & Program Update	Zarmeen Hassan (AUSVEG)
12:45pm - 13:35pm	LEAN Principles in Onion Production	Simon Drum (PSVC Advisory)
13:35pm - 14:35pm	Integrated Management in Onions - Learnings from International Systems for Australia	Dr. Daniel Drost (Professor Emeritus of Horticulture)
14:35pm - 14:45pm	Advocacy Update	Michael Coote (AUSVEG)
14:45pm - 15:15pm	Afternoon Tea & Networking Opportunity	-

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Dr. Daniel Drost
13:45pm - 14:45pm: Integrated management in onions - Learnings from international systems for Australia

Dr. Dan Drost is Professor Emeritus of Horticulture and former Extension Vegetable Specialist in the Department of Plants, Soils and Climate at Utah State University.

Dan grew up on a small diverse farm in western Michigan where he learned the meaning of hard work and how to troubleshoot problems. He received a BS degree in Agricultural Education (1979) and MS in Horticulture (1982) from Michigan State University. After teaching in the Horticulture Department at Massey University, New Zealand for several years (1983- 87), he completed his education at Cornell University, receiving his PhD in Vegetable Physiology (1991).

Dan and his family moved to Utah in 1992 after he was appointed the Vegetable Specialist for Utah State University. Since then, he has helped Utah's vegetable industry remain competitive and sustainable. Dr. Drost' responsibilities include efforts in extension, research and teaching that addresses plant growth and crop production issues that impact Utah's commercial vegetable farms. His extension/research interests address extending a variety of crop production issues common to Utah farms. He worked extensively with Utah's onion industry to combat onion thrips, iris yellow spot virus, and improve their irrigation management. He was part of several national onion research programs that addressed common problems for all onion growers. He has shared these finding with onion producers in England, Germany, New Zealand, and across all important onion growing regions in the United States.
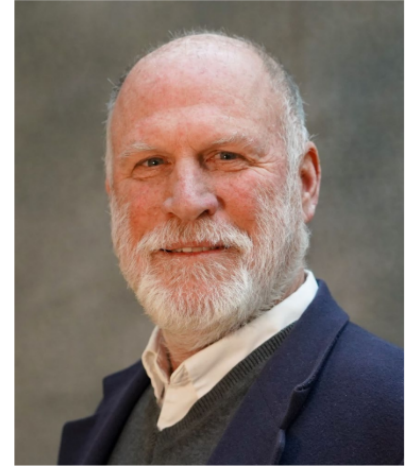
Simon Drum
12:55pm -13:35pm: LEAN Principles in Onion Production

Simon Drum is the owner and Managing Director of PSVC Advisory and has worked in agribusiness for 28 years.

Working in horticulture for 20 years in a range of strategic, commercial, operational, and advisory roles through the value chain and across many fruit, vegetable, and nuts categories. While working for one of Australia's largest fresh vegetable business Simon began to learn and apply lean principles to primary production, manufacturing, and supply chain to improve quality, productivity, and profitability.

In 2017 Simon founded PSVC Advisory to help Australian agribusinesses improve market alignment, productivity, and profitability. Simon has spent the past 7 years working with private and corporately owned agribusinesses in everything from lettuce and onions to berries, beetroot, citrus and almonds.

Today Simon will talk about how a lean perspective can reveal the waste / opportunity for improvement in an agribusiness and some of the nuances of applying lean in agribusiness.