

Role Description

General Information

Title:	Research Centre Manager - Minnipa			Classification:	OPS5
Division:	SARDI	Branch:	Research Support		Business unit: Research Centres
Type of appointment:	Ongoing	Hours of duty:	37.5 per week	Location :	Minnipa Agricultural Centre

About Us

South Australia is internationally recognised for the quality of its agriculture, food, and wine. Our regions are the backbone of our state and the economic powerhouse that drives prosperity for all South Australians.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) is a key economic development agency working in partnership with our primary industries, regional stakeholders and across all levels of government to advance the prosperity and sustainability of South Australia's primary industries and regional communities.

We are a passionate team of around 800 people working across metropolitan and regional South Australia to develop and protect our state's regions and food, wine, aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, grains, livestock, dairy and horticulture industries.

Purpose

The Research Centre Manager, Minnipa Agricultural Centre contributes to Research Support and SARDI objectives through the provision of an environment where research activities can be conducted without financial risk and agronomic uncertainties. The Research Centre Manager is responsible for the planning, delivery, review and reporting requirements of both a rotational cropping program and sheep livestock enterprises, this includes significant levels of interaction with peak industry bodies, researchers, producers and other industry participants to ensure that all objectives can be met, with a view to demonstrating best practice farming techniques and de-risking investment decisions for producers in the region.

Key to the position is the ability to collect, review, and interpret agronomic data generated on-farm by both low- and high-tech solutions, effectively utilising this to form rotational plans and agronomic recommendations.

The Research Centre Manager, Minnipa Agricultural Centre is a leadership role, where management responsibilities include; managing a small team in a regional environment, the site management of a remotely located facility, , inventory management, a mixed-farming system (broad-acre cropping program and self-replacing merino flock), as well as several ancillary tasks to support the ongoing operation of the facility. The Minnipa Agricultural Centre farm team also provides skilled technical assistance in farming operations and frequently participates in the wider industry including Research, Development and Extension (RDE) activities.

Other desirable traits for this role include:

- Strategic vision, and the ability to plan for the long-term, is required when considering machinery purchases and other capital items/works.
- Ability to communicate and build relationships with a wide variety of industry participants on both a scientific, but also, grass-roots level.
- Resilience to deal with the challenges of regional life and the regional-metro divide.

Key Accountabilities

The ongoing management of a broad-acre mixed farming system, including:

- Overseeing the management of, and providing agronomic input into, a seasonal cropping rotation including; summer spraying, seed cleaning, pre-em spraying,

Acting as the Regional Site Manager, responsible for:

- Managing site safety, through the Site Safety Management Plan (SSMP).

Role Description

sowing, in-crop spraying, fertiliser application, harvesting and delivery of produce tasks. - Ensuring accurate and detailed work records of the above operations are recorded and maintained. - Managing and coordinating equipment maintenance, upgrades and replacements, identifying current and future needs and procurement of equipment and resources to suit. - Maintaining and effectively enforcing farm sustainability & hygiene practices, including general up-keep, tidiness and presentation of the facility	- Managing visitor and contractor welfare and safety. 24x7 Site contact for emergency services, police security, etc. - Monitoring of assets, including an annual audit in conjunction with the SARDI Asset Manager. - On-site asbestos management plans. - Acting as the site firearms coordinator. - Managing a self-replacing Merino flock including; single-sire mating, shearing, preg-scanning, supplementary feeding, lambing, tagging, tailing, weaning and crutching tasks as necessary. - With direction from SARDI Management – the preparation of funding proposals and capital investment plans for the Minnipa Agricultural Centre and associated infrastructure.
Key Deliverables / Results	
- An effective and regionally relevant cropping rotation is maintained, with opportunities to try new varieties and crop-types taken. - The self-replacing Merino flock is maintained, and genetic improvements tracked and validated against clearly defined breeding objectives. - Effective control of weeds and other pests by implementing an effective IWPM program. - All produce is delivered in compliance with industry receival standards. - Input is provided to the strategic direction of the MAC, with the assistance of the SARDI executive. - Summary reports, farm budgets, financial reports and other items concerned with farm management are submitted by due dates	- Preparation of seasonal summaries, deliverable in the Eyre Peninsula Farming Systems Summary booklet and at the MAC annual field day. - Data generated through farm operations is managed in accordance with the SARDI Data Management Framework. - Broadacre “demos” are effectively identified, planned, implemented, monitored and reported on. - Farm staff are effectively managed.
Relationships	
- Role reports to General Manager, SARDI. - Manages and provides direction to the Senior Agricultural Officer, Agricultural Officer. - Works in conjunction with Research Centre Managers across the Regional Farm Operations network.	- Collaborates with a range of professional, technical, farm staff and external stakeholders. - Interacts with local community and industry. - Acts as Regional Site Manager, Site Firearms Coordinator & Chief Fire Warden
Requirements	Qualifications
- Possession of a current driver’s licence and willingness to drive - Out of hours work and inter / intrastate travel may be required - Australian residency or current works permit is required (responsibility of applicant to provide evidence of a current work permit). - You acknowledge your work, health and safety obligations and our expectations when applying for a role. - The incumbent will be required to undertake emergency management training and must	- Desirable: Qualification in Agricultural or Horticultural Science, or Agribusiness

Role Description

be willing to participate in emergency preparedness, response and recovery activities required by government agencies.

- Out of hours work during peak seasons (harvest & seeding) is required
- Relevant experience in farming practices and operation of farming machinery
- Exposure to inclement weather conditions,

Desirable

- HC or MC class license. LF (HRW) class license, asbestos identification
- Firearms license (classes A & B)

Capabilities

Capability	Behaviours
Professional & Technical Knowledge Demonstrates sound knowledge of agriculture, preferably with specialisation in low rainfall farming.	• Maintains up to date knowledge and practical skills in agriculture, including recent developments, industry direction, and technology advancements. • Manages complex tasks in a mixed farming enterprise and demonstrates an ability to adapt to change quickly. • Explains technical information accurately and clearly to less technically literate people. • Demonstrates an ability to assimilate and implement new/complex information quickly.
Planning and Organising Work (Work Management) Manages own and others time efficiently, plans resource availability and use so that work is completed on time and in line with objectives	• Sets priorities effectively, allocating and managing time and resources accordingly. • Manages a high volume of tasks by prioritising effectively, ensuring deadlines are met while also monitoring and supporting the workload of other staff • Can dynamically change priorities based on changing deadlines and demands. • Monitors workload and communicates problems and difficulties to management.
Business and Commercial Acumen Understands and ensures sound commercial principles are applied to all aspects of area of responsibility; identifies key business drivers and opportunities to develop new processes and services to benefit the business of the whole business group and its customers	• Understands the nature of marketing commodities and the various influences on commodity prices and relevant marketing strategies to combat. • Ability to identify new opportunities for improving on-farm gross margins across the region and liaise with across government and business sectors with confidence and authority • Can identify and implement programs to improve on-farm efficiencies, reducing input costs or enhancing outcomes.
People Management Sets work plans; supports and encourages	• Provides opportunities for staff to enhance their personal and professional development, including career progression. • Ensures individual employees clearly understand their roles and responsibilities, and are well supported to meet these.

Role Description

individuals in achieving work outcomes; monitors performance, provides feedback and encourages capability development	Provides specific performance feedback, both positive and corrective, as soon as possible after an event, and supports staff through performance challenges by setting clear standards and offering guidance to achieve them				
HRMS no.:	A789131	ANZCO Code:		Objective ID:	
Delegate approval:	Steven Olson (Acting General Manager – SARDI)			Date:	5/03/26
Approved and classified by People and Culture:	Classified by People and Culture – 05/09/24				