WA grower awarded for his role in winning the battle against resistance

WA grain grower Lance Turner is the 2013 Resistance Champion.

The inaugural Resistance Champion Award was presented by Professor Stephen Powles, Director of the Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (AHRI), a leading research team funded by the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), at the Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge conference (GHRC) in Fremantle, Western Australia earlier this year.

“In Australia, herbicide resistance is a major problem in cereal cropping systems across the country, especially in ryegrass,” Professor Powles said.

“We must win the battle against herbicide resistance, just as medical science must win the battle against antibiotic resistance.

“To do so we need good science coupled with good agronomy and good engineering.

“We need well trained people at all levels from high science, right through to dedicated farmers implementing a range of practices.”

Lance Turner is one such farmer.

After discovering herbicide resistant ryegrass on his 4000 hectare property in Corrigin in 1996, Lance embarked on an aggressive and integrated management approach to weed control.

Lance uses harvest weed seed control, and towing a chaff cart for the past seven years means that around 95 per cent of his paddocks have low ryegrass numbers.

“The more tools I have in my toolkit the better, because from one year to the next I don’t always know which tools I’ll need to use,” Lance said.

This integrated approach enables Lance to reap the yield and profit benefits of seeding early each year, as well as maintaining a full range of weed control options.

“Lance Turner freely gives his time to talk to farmers at AHRI Weed Seed Control Workshops right across southern Australia. Lance is an excellent farmer and a good communicator and citizen who thoroughly deserves the AHRI Resistance Champion Award,” Professor Powles said.

The Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge held in Fremantle in January was hosted by AHRI and attended by over 300 delegates, including 150 scientists, from 32 countries.
Major issues discussed at the multidisciplinary research conference included the threat of herbicide resistance and its impact on global grain production, alternatives to chemical weed control and the latest gene modification advances.

Tel: (08) 6488 7870  Email: lisa.mayer@uwa.edu.au  Web: www.ahri.uwa.edu.au

PHOTO CAPTION: WA grain grower Lance Turner was awarded the inaugural AHRI Resistance Champion Award at the recent Global Herbicide Resistance Challenge conference.