

Solutions For a Sustainable Future

Many factors influence the performance of your enterprise. Understanding the efficiency of each stage of your process is becoming more and more critical. As natural resource costs and availability influence the quality and quantity of your products the need to access information on ways to improve your margins becomes a necessity. A series of workshops have been developed to help farmers understand the areas for improvement and potential actions worth considering.

Practical Examples

The need to develop these workshops have come out of a series of projects operating in the Western Port, Bass Coast and Lake Wellington regions over the last 3 years.

Upto 60 farms have been involved with many sustainable actions identified all influencing the profits of the farm in a positive way



this months courses

Beef & Dairy–
Understanding the Options

Beef & Dairy–
Putting it into practice

Exploring the options begins with auditing and measuring.

The key to these workshops is to train the farmer on how to find opportunities on their own farm. While many examples are provided, the methods in determining which of the options exists with the costs, benefits and savings are all spelt out in easy to understand terms. *Putting it into practice* sessions are where the farmer applies their own projects and develop their own designs.

Thanks to almost over 60 farm audits, action plans and implementation strategies the course provider believes there is a wealth of knowledge to share to other farmers. The audits were completed through the project *Agricultural Greenhouse Emissions – increasing productivity in Western Port* delivered by the South East Councils Climate Change Alliance through the Western Port Catchment and Bass Coast Landcare Networks and supported by the Victorian Government Sustainability Fund. The findings, examples and case studies are all explained throughout the workshops. Learnings from a similar project called *Farming for a Sustainable Future – Demonstrating Best Farm Practices* in the Lake Wellington Landcare Network region and supported by Caring For Our Country are also included in the workshops.

The workshops are designed to introduce the farmer to ways in identifying sources of emissions on the farm that contribute to lost production. The farmer will see ways of measuring these waste streams and begin to understand ways to mitigate the losses.

Farmers are then taken through what they can do, how to design the systems for themselves, do the costings and predict the savings from the implementation of the action.

Available software will be covered to help in measuring, recording and designing improvements for their farm.

The workshops *Putting it into practice* is designed to visit an example farm, see hands on the problems and issues when designing a solution. The farmer will take this opportunity to work on their own project. Course presenters will help step each farmer through the process allowing them to ask the simple questions which normally come up when you begin to design, cost and measure the potential solution. An example of measuring carbon levels and how to make it will be covered with the introduction to available software to assist in the task.

Over-all the farmer will come away with a greater appreciation of the opportunities that exist on their farm to improve profitability.

Principles for Sustainable Farming Success

Making informative decisions on the farm is the key principle for sustainable farming.

Reducing resource use while increasing production is a win-win situation.

Energy costs are sky rocketing, including feed, electricity, diesel, fertilizers while production returns are marginal. The result is lower profits.

Farmers are spending more and more time on the farm trying to make ends meet.

Water security is on every ones mind.

Understanding where the production benefits are, where costs can be reduced and where time can be saved is a key step in reducing the risk of operating the enterprise. Profits begin to return and you the farmer take control of the variables which are present everyday in the world of farming.

Practical Examples

The workshops are designed to introduce the farmer to local contractors and suppliers to help step through how best to design, cost and estimate the potential savings from a local perspective.

Similar quotes and designs will be presented with the opportunity in the *Putting it into practice* sessions to design your project with the supplier and contractor.



What farmers really need to know.

The workshops independently cover the tools and information available to make informative decisions.

Workshop Content:

Course 1 & 2 Understanding the options (Beef or Dairy)

- Step through the process of auditing
- What data is required and in what form?
- Calculate emissions on the farm using available software.
- Identify production drivers
- Explore industry best practice and opportunities.
- Establish areas for abatement . Including emissions, water, waste, \$'s and time
- Understand how to measure and record your performance
- Learn Government incentives, policies and relevant regulatory requirements.

Course 3 & 4 Putting it into practice (Beef or Dairy)

- Carry out a real audit on a farm
- Collect the data that is required and in the appropriate form.
- Calculate emissions on the farm using available software and real data.
- Walk around the farm identifying opportunities.
- Listen to local contractors /suppliers on how to best design your project.
- Design your own project.
- Identify the costs, benefits and savings of your project.

EYE ON IT Current Industry Trends

Developments in sustainable farming practices are changing at a rapid rate. New technologies, practices and information are popping up from various sources every day.

At www.cows.net.au we aim to keep you informed. Consider it a hub for new ideas, developments and news on your industry with regards to sustainable farming.

SOFTWARE Monthly Picks

Computer software can assist in making informative decisions. Everything from simple auditing tools, measurement techniques and opportunity tracking. Monthly pics is designed to show case the software tools available to assist with making decisions.

Workshop Presenters & Sponsors

The series of workshops are supported by the South Eastern Councils Climate Change Alliance.

Workshops are delivered through Environmental Accounting Services and GenesisNow
Environmental Accounting Services provide access to recent and relevant science and policy, critical information and a full range of project development and verification services primarily in the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses.

www.enviroaccounts.com.au

GenesisNow have experience in delivering sustainable solutions to businesses. With recent experience in auditing over 60 farms in Gippsland many business cases, designs and solution tools have been developed. We not only provide examples of solutions we also teach you how to find out for yourself. Trusting data is every ones worst fear. see how to break the detail into manageable parts and turn assumptions into facts.
www.genesisnow.com.au





Technology Solutions & Practice Changes

Some of the topics covered include:

Renewable energy systems

- Solar Hot water
- Solar PV
- Solar Cooling
- Wind
- Geothermal
- Methane Digester's
- Wood gasifiers

What are REC's and what are the pro's and con's?

What is a feed in tariff?

Waste

Heat recovery (Dairy)

Water reuse

Effluent systems (Dairy)

Plastic & net wrap

Water

Measurement

Harvesting

Solar water pumping vs diesel & electricity

Reduction – What can I do about evaporation?

Where else can I get water from? (Dairy)

Pasture/Feed

??????

Vegetation – can it improve profitability?

Diesel savings – what can I do to save fuel?

See ways of measuring carbon and how to make it!

Dairy –
– into the future

See how the dairy shed can be transformed over several steps to achieve zero emissions and zero energy costs.





Workshop details

Venue: TBA

Lunch, morning & afternoon
tea provided

Class notes provided

Upcoming Events

- **Beef - Understanding the options**

June ? 2010

- **Dairy - Understanding the options**

June ? 2010

- **Beef- Putting it into practice**

June ? 2010

- **Dairy - Putting it into practice**

June ? 2010

All workshops are approved under the FarmReady program.

Reimbursement for course fees, travel, accomodation, meals and child minding are available for all primary producers, partners, and employees of the enterprise.

Participants not eligible for this funding or wish not to apply for it, the course fees are:

\$605 GST inc for Beef & Dairy- Understanding the options (FRTC93)

\$770 GST inc for Beef & Dairy- Putting it into practice (FRTC293)

Please contact us for pre approval process assistance.



Contact Us

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