

Western Port Greenhouse Alliance Agricultural Emissions Project

Idea No: 72

Footprint Rating: 

Dung Beetles

Description: Dung beetles feed on dung. Some species will also use it as a home or breeding ground and roll the dung into balls to transport it. As a result the dung is spread around and often buried in the ground. This improves the soil fertility - supplying nutrients to the plant root zone and increasing the water holding capacity. As a result of this increase in soil health, both the amount of fertilisers that need to be applied to the pasture and the amount of leaching of chemicals and nutrients into the waterways are reduced.

Environmental Benefits as opposed to the current system

% reduction in GHG emissions:	9.68%
% increase in water efficiency:	4.09%
% reduction in waste to landfill:	0.00%
% increase in production:	10.00%

Benefits: Improve soil biology

Costs: \$3,600

Savings: 10% increase in beef production
21t of equivalent CO₂ per year
(emissions produced from 18 cows)

Implementation/Monitoring/Reporting



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For more information see the following websites:

<http://www.dungbeetle.com.au/>

<http://svc018.wic008tv.server-web.com/page.asp?pid=132>

<http://www.dungbeetles.org.au/files/climatechange pamphlet.pdf>

http://www.csiro.au/images/mediaReleases/dungbeetle_small.jpg

http://www.ento.csiro.au/education/Assets/images_coleoptera/Onitis_alexis.jpg

http://www.csiro.au/images/mediaReleases/dungbeetle2_small.jpg

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