

Mallee Farming Research and Demonstration Projects - 2009



Above: Soil pit at Hopetoun demonstrating rooting depth of saltbush, with roots detected to a depth of 2.5m in highly saline subsoil. Photo: BCG

Left: Figure 1. A field evaluation trial of a variety of shrubs as part of the ENRICH project at Walpeup. Photo: Mallee CMA

In 2009, the Mallee CMA is supporting the delivery of on ground research and demonstration activities to identify and promote improved farming systems and management practices within the dryland agricultural areas of the region.

A total of 10 separate projects have been funded which complement and extend the scope of existing government and industry investment in Mallee dryland agriculture, while ensuring that environmental considerations are effectively addressed.

Funding provided through the Australian Government Caring for Our Country (CfOC) represents an ongoing commitment by the Mallee CMA to

support regional agency and industry groups deliver 'locally' validated information to the dryland farming community which assists with informed decisions on both the environmental and economic sustainability of management practices and farming systems.

Previously funded projects have evaluated the impact of management practices on soil erosion, soil health and crop water use; as well as their impact on farm productivity.

A summary of activities funded for the 2009 season and contact details for further information are provided over the page.



At a glance

- Support delivery of research and demonstration activities within dryland agricultural areas of the Victorian Mallee.
- Assist with informed decisions on environmental and economic sustainability of management practices and farming systems.

Project	Location	Delivery Organisation	Contact	Integrated Activities
Water use, soil health and productivity of perennial versus annual systems.	Walpeup x2 sites	Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and Future Farm Industries CRC (FFI CRC)	Rob Harris (DPI) 03 5573 0963	Low risk lucerne establishment methods (FFI CRC - Evercrop) Lucerne cultivar evaluation (NSW DPI)
Sub tropical, temperature grass and lucerne pasture productivity in the Mallee.	Hopetoun Managatang Birchip	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG)	Jodie Odgers (BCG) 03 5492 2787	Perennial Performance in the Mallee (FFI CRC - Evercrop)
Remedial effects of saltbush on saline profiles over time in comparison to adjacent cropping land.	Managatang x10 sites	Mallee Focus	Ben Jones (Mallee Focus) 03 5035 1017	
Growth and forage potential of perennial shrubs in alternative grazing systems.	Walpeup	Department of Primary Industries (DPI)	Rob Harris (DPI) 03 5573 0963	Alternative Grazing Systems (FFI CRC - ENRICH)
	Werrimull	Millewa Carwarp Landcare Group	Kevin Chaplin (Landcare) 03 5051 4377	Local Adaptation Group (LAG) engaging growers, consultants & agronomists (FFI CRC - Evercrop)
Long term (2005>) relationship between farming systems and climate with soil properties and production.	Walpeup, Cowangie, Carwarp, Chinkapook	Department of Primary Industries (DPI)	Ivan Mock (DPI) 03 5091 7203	Spatial optimisation of crop inputs (DPI)
	Sea Lake, Waitchie	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG)	Jodie Odgers (BCG) 03 5492 2787	
Long term (1993>) water, nutrient and chemical drainage below the root zone under two Mallee rotations.	Walpeup, Lysimeter Site	Department of Primary Industries (DPI) & Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF)	Ivan Mock (DPI) 03 5091 7203	Water Use Efficient Farming Systems (GRDC)
Yield and soil health responses to grazing dual purpose cereal crops under 7 wheat and 2 barley varieties.	Watchupga	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) & Rainbow	Fiona Best (BCG) 03 5492 2787 or	Communicating Best Practice of Grazing Cereals (NLP/CfOC)
		Landcare Group	Heather Drendel (Landcare) 03 5083 2205	
Long term (1999>) soil biology change under different farming systems	Jil Jil	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) and Mallee Focus	Alexandra Gartmann (BCG) 03 5492 2787 Ben Jones (Mallee Focus) 03 5035 1017	Flexible Farming Systems (GRDC)
Soil property (Colwell P, PBI, organic C, and total N) change under different farming systems.	Patchewollock, Sea Lake, Yaapeet, Culgoa, Donald, Minyip.	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) and Mallee Focus	Alexandra Gartmann (BCG) 03 5492 2787	Flexible Farming Systems (GRDC)
			Ben Jones (Mallee Focus) 03 5035 1017	
Stratification of topsoils under no-till versus conventional systems and implications for interpreting soil tests.	Jil Jil, Patchewollock, Sea Lake, Yaapeet, Culgoa, Donald, Minyip.	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG) and Mallee Focus	Alexandra Gartmann (BCG) 03 5492 2787	
			Ben Jones (Mallee Focus) 03 5035 1017	

Project Partners



Mallee Focus

FUTURE FARM INDUSTRIES CRC



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