

Mallee Farming Research and Demonstration Projects – 2012-13



Above: Quadrat counts to quantify crop and weed populations in Yaapeet wheat trial plots in July 2011. Photo: Dodgshun Medlin.

Left: Biomass cuts taken at the Department Primary Industries (DPI) field trial site at Ouyen in 2011. Photo: DPI Future Farming Services (FFSR).

In 2012-13 the Mallee Catchment Management Authority (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 Mallee region.

A total of 13 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's Caring for Our Country and the Victorian Investment Framework

represents an ongoing commitment by the Mallee CMA to support regional agency and industry groups to deliver 'locally' validated information to the dryland farming community. This 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 impacts on farm productivity.

A summary of activities funded for the 2012-13 season and contact details for more 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
Assessing the contribution that different break crops make to soil health in the Mallee	Ouyen	Department of Primary Industries (DPI)	Angela Clough (DPI) (03) 5336 6618	Water Use Efficiency project (GRDC)
Base level monitoring at Landcare delivery sites	Chinkapook, Carwarp, Cowangie and Walpeup	Department of Primary Industries (DPI)	Angela Clough (DPI) (03) 5336 6618	Soil Health Monitoring Program (Mallee CMA and Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF))
Growth and forage potential of perennial shrubs in alternative grazing systems	Walpeup and Manangatang	Department of Primary Industries (DPI)	Dave Monks (DPI) (03) 5051 4393	Alternative Grazing Systems (Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre - Enrich (FFI CRC))
Nitrogen management tools and strategies for low rainfall Mallee farmers	Ouyen	Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF)	Michael Moodie (MSF) (03) 5021 9100	Nitrogen management focus paddock (GRDC, Southern Precision Agriculture Association and MSF)
Production and environmental impacts of broadleaf break crops in the Mallee	20 private paddocks across the Mallee	Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF)	Michael Moodie (MSF) (03) 5021 9100	Soil Health Monitoring Program (Mallee CMA and MSF) and Mallee Water Use Efficiency Project (GRDC, CSIRO and MSF)
Productivity and environmental impacts of wide row break crops	Ouyen	Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF)	Michael Moodie (MSF) (03) 5021 9100	Water Use Efficiency Project (GRDC)
Managing production risk demonstrations at Landcare delivery sites	Waitchie and Sea Lake	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG)	De-Anne Ferrier (BCG) (03) 5492 2787	Soil Health Monitoring Program (Mallee CMA)
The impact of stubble borne disease management on erosion potential	Ouyen and Manangatang	Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF) and Birchip Cropping Group (BCG)	Michael Moodie (MSF) (03) 5021 9100	Mallee Soil Erosion and Land Management Survey (Mallee CMA and DPI)
Farming Systems Soil Health - Re-visited	Jil Jil	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG)	Tim McClelland (BCG) (03) 5492 2787	Farming System Trial (BCG)
Crop stubble threshold for maximised moisture conservation	Jil Jil	Birchip Cropping Group (BCG)	Tim McClelland (BCG) (03) 5492 2787	Yielding Benefits through Partnerships (BCG and GRDC)
Reduce wind erosion by improving establishment of rotational crops, especially canola	Regional	Dodgshun Medlin Agricultural Management	Ivan Mock (Dodgshun Medlin) 0427 329 919	Low rainfall oilseed cultivar selection and National Variety Testing (Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC))
Crop nutrient management on sands to achieve rapid ground cover and soil stability	Regional	Dodgshun Medlin Agricultural Management	Ivan Mock (Dodgshun Medlin) 0427 329 919	Better Fertiliser Practices for Cereals (NSW Industry and Investment)
Mallee Dust Watch	Walpeup	Mallee Catchment Management Authority (Mallee CMA)	Tom Fagan (Mallee CMA) (03) 5051 4575	Mallee Soil Erosion and Land Management Survey (Mallee CMA and DPI)

Project Partners



Published February 2012



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