

“East South Australia Grain and Graze 2 Program”

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Through Ag Excellence Alliance

Key Outcomes:

- Improving Water Use efficiency across mixed cropping and livestock systems throughout Eastern South Australia
- Improving whole farm profitability, whole farm sustainability and whole farm ground cover across Eastern South Australia

Trial Objective:

- Looking at different strategies to try and improve water use efficiency in mixed cropping and livestock enterprises across the South-East region

Trial Duration: 2011 – 2013

Location: South East Region (Various sites)

MacKillop Farm Management Group Project Activities and Site Locations:

1. “Growing Biomass”

Measuring the dry matter accumulation & timing of a range of pasture species & mixes and comparing them to the dry matter produced by crops that are grown to be grazed before being shut up for grain production or cut for hay or silage production.

Planned Site Location: Bool Lagoon/Struan

(Replicated Trials to be managed by SARDI)

2. “Transition”

Measuring grain and dry matter production from a range of rotational treatments including pasture, winter sown grain crops, grazed crops shut up for grain production, hay crops and spring sown crops. The grain yield of the subsequent wheat crop will be measured to see which of the previous crops have the greatest ability to increase the yield and water use efficiency of crops.

Planned Site Location: Padthaway/Keppoch Region

(Replicated Trials to be managed by SARDI)

3. “Biological Solutions”

Extension activities based around weed, pest and disease management in stubbles. To be incorporated into Trial Site visits and Pre-Harvest Meetings.



“Continuous improvement of soil management to support resilient farming systems”

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Key Outcomes:

- 10 New soil demonstrations and trials to be established in the South-East over the next 2 years
- Opportunities for farmers to access expert soil advice and information through a series of community meetings, workshops and field days

Trial Objective: To improve farmer access to quality information relating to soil health

Trial Duration: 2011 – 2013

Location: South East Region (Various sites)

Project Activities and Site Locations:

A range of trials will be established throughout the SE region. To date, community consultation events have been held at Mil Lel, Furner, Kybybolite, Wolseley, Wirrega and Coonalpyn. Discussions involved a look at soil research that has been undertaken in the SE in the past, and establishing the types of soil information and research that farmers need now. Next year similar events will be held at Mt Gambier, Penola, Lochaber, Kingston and Keith.

Stemming from the community consultations, the following trials and demonstrations will be established in 2011:

- **Mingboon:** Delving and nutrition replicated trial on a *thick sand over clay* site.
- **Kybybolite:** Deep mixing replicated trial of gypsum at high rates on a *waterlogged shallow loam over sodic clay* site.
- **Coonalpyn:** Set of soil characterization and soil constraint identification sites.
- **Western Flat:** Continuation of a replicated delving and spading trial on a *sand over clay* site.
- **Commurra:** Replicated trace-element nutrition trial on an *alkaline black clay* site.
- **Wolseley:** To be confirmed; possibly a calibration of soil biological tests and soil phosphorus tests on heavy soils.

A total of 10 sites will be established over the next 2 years & a workshop and field-day series will be held at each of the locations. The project will also bring together old and new information that has been highlighted as being relevant to assisting farmers in gaining a better understanding of soil health.



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