



27/02/13

Benefits of Pasture Cropping to be revealed at workshop

Pasture Cropping will be the focus of a workshop to be held at Dadswells Bridge this Thursday. Project Platypus events coordinator Bronwyn Bant said pasture cropping was becoming more prevalent and that many farmers in the region had expressed an interest in finding out more.

Pasture cropping is a technique of sowing cereal crops directly into perennial pastures. It combines grazing and cropping into a single land use, where each one benefits the other economically and environmentally.

“We’re fortunate to be hearing from well-respected pasture cropper Col Sies at the workshop. Col pioneered the pasture cropping method close to thirty years ago, and has since then been fine-tuning his methods and educating others globally on how pasture cropping can benefit their farm enterprise” said Ms Bant.

Ms Bant said studies have shown that pasture cropping can increase stock feed, reduce inputs and associated costs, improve soil health and increase farm productivity.

“From a farm economic point of view the potential for good profit is excellent because the cost of growing crops in this manner is a fraction of conventional cropping. The added benefit in a mixed farm situation is that up to six months extra grazing is achieved with this method compared with the loss of grazing due to ground preparation and weed control required in traditional cropping methods” said Mr Seis.

“Vast improvements in perennial plant numbers and increased diversity in the pasture following cropping is another major benefit. This means that there is no need to re-sow pastures, which can cost in excess of \$150 per hectare. Even more difficult to calculate are the environmental benefits of leaving grassland intact by maintaining one hundred percent ground cover one hundred percent of the time” said Mr Seis.

“The benefits of pasture cropping are enormous, and go way beyond the short-term crop yields. It gives farmers and graziers a tool to effectively manage their properties whilst individually contributing to a healthier environment” said Mr Seis.

The pasture cropping workshop will take place at 5570 Western Highway Dadswells Bridge, starting at 8.00am with a bacon and egg breakfast. Attendance is free. To register call Project Platypus on 5358 4410.

Photo: ‘colin cropped Jan 2008’

Photo Caption: “ Pasture Cropping pioneer Col Sies will host the Project Platypus Pasture Cropping Workshop on Thursday March 7 in Dadswells Bridge.

End of release

MEDIA CONTACT:

Project Platypus Event Coordinator Bronwyn Bant

0400 593 500 bronwyn@platypus.org.au www.platypus.org.au