



Media Release

Wednesday, August 30th, 2017

Northern Field Day to Showcase the Benefits of Trees on Farms

A field day at Cressy next week aims to demonstrate how trees on farms can improve livestock, crop and pasture productivity.

The Business of Trees on Farms field day is supported by Private Forests Tasmania and NRM North through funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

The day will include tours of recent plantings and established shelterbelts intended for different benefits.

NRM North's Land Program Manager, Adrian James, said the field day would give participants information on the essential steps in tree establishment, through to the latest in agroforestry trials.

"There are plenty of recent plantings on farms in the Northern Midlands which have been supported by NRM North and Private Forests Tasmania," Mr James said.

"While it takes time, land and money to create and maintain a planting, a wide range of benefits get delivered at paddock, farm and landscape scales.

"In the recent cold and dry conditions, shelter from trees will provide more benefits than usual – reducing moisture losses and improving feed conversion in stock."

Other benefits include enhancing biodiversity, lowering water tables and reducing salinity.

Private Forest Advisor, David Bower, said outcomes from having sufficient trees on farm mostly involved improved crop, pasture and livestock production from shelter, and protection of soil from wind erosion.

"PFT's new agroforestry project, in collaboration with CSIRO, aims to demonstrate and measure the benefits shelterbelts have on pasture production and explore options for timber production," Mr Bower said.

"This information will be useful for those landholders who are considering integrating trees into their farm plans."

Guest speaker at the field day, Dr Martin Moroni of Private Forests Tasmania, said commercial timber species should also be considered in farm shelter.

“They grow quickly and so provide shelter benefits early on and they can provide a further commercial return when harvested,” Dr Moroni said.

The field day will start at 9:30 am at ‘Forest Vale’ on the Poatina Road on Thursday 7th September and finish at ‘Formosa’ on Cressy Road at around 2pm.

Ends

For more information contact:

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