



# Media Release

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

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## Farmers to Get Advice on How Drainage Can Boost Productivity

An event in Tasmania's north east next week aims to demonstrate how farmers can boost productivity through smart drainage.

NRM North and the Northeast Discussion Group have joined together to run the field day at Ringarooma on May 16. It has been funded through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

NRM North Land Program Manager, Adrian James, said farmers attending would see the results of drainage works completed since a similar field day in September last year.

"Together with the discussion group, we held a great field tour last year looking at drainage problems on two farms," Mr James said.

"One of the farms has now completed works, so it's time to visit there again and see how well it has worked and what difference it has made."

Soil scientist from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture, Dr Bill Cotching, said the right type of drain in the right place could boost productivity by more than 100 per cent on some areas.

"The pay back on the cost of installation starts as soon as the drain is installed, however, each paddock is different and requires individual attention when deciding how best to fix up a waterlogging problem," Dr Cotching said.

"No amount of fertiliser will fix a waterlogging problem but investing in drainage can result in better growth from the fertiliser applied."

Farmers will also be given an introduction on how to find and use free NDVI (Normalised Difference Vegetation Index) satellite images of their crops and pastures.

"These are frequently-updated satellite images of photosynthetic activity and can be used to map and identify where crops or pastures are growing healthily or are having problems such as disease or moisture stress," Mr James said.

“The satellite images can pick up problems before the human eye can.”

The event starts at 12pm on Wednesday, May 16 at `Daisy Banks`, 69 East Maurice Rd, Ringarooma. A BBQ lunch will be provided by Roberts Ltd.

Ends

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