



Media Release

Monday, March 6th, 2017

Vegetable Producers to Get Expert Advice on Crop and Soil Health

Vegetable producers will have access to specialist advice from some of Tasmania's top soil and crop experts during two field days in March and April.

Bill Cotching, Doris Blaesing and Frank Mulcahy will present at the events in Scottsdale and Deloraine which aim to give vegetable producers expert advice on soil health, irrigation management, crop nutrition and disease management.

The field days have been organised by NRM North with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

NRM North's Land and Water Manager, Adrian James, said the events were part of a broader program to assist the industry to increase sustainable profitability and soil health.

"For many farmers, the requirement to grow produce year after year with tight crop rotations places significant pressure on soil health," Mr James said.

"The result in some cases is increased inputs with dwindling returns. Having Bill Cotching, Doris Blaesing and Frank Mulcahy together to answer producers' questions will be a great opportunity to make a difference for farmers."

Dr Blaesing is a soil and crop nutrition specialist with RM Consulting Group and is AusVeg's 2016 Researcher of the Year.

"We have been working with vegetable growers nationally on the profitable use of compost, cover crops and reduced tillage. I am looking forward to sharing with growers how they can use these tools on their farm," Dr Blaesing said.

Frank Mulcahy is Research and Development Manager at Simplot and has worked in many countries in vegetable and potato production systems.

"We need to be more aware of the health of our soils and ways to reduce degradation," Mr Mulcahy said.

Dr Cotching is a soil expert from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture (TIA) and author of the book 'Soil Health for Farming in Tasmania'.

The first event will be at 70 Jetson's Rd Scottsdale on the 23rd March.
The second event will be at the Deloraine Rotary pavilion on 5th April.
Unfortunately, Doris Blaesing will not be able to attend the Deloraine event.
Both events will start at 10am.

Ends

For more information contact:

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