



Media Release

Tuesday, August 1st, 2017



LEADING FARMERS VISIT TASMANIA FOR REGENERATIVE FARMING FORUM

Two prominent interstate farmers will be the keynote speakers at a regenerative farming forum in northern Tasmania later this month.

Fifth generation grazier from Braidwood in New South Wales, Martin Royds, and pastured poultry farmer from Southhampton Homestead in Western Australia, Jeff Pow, will present at the forum at Longford on Saturday, August 12.

The event has been organised by NRM North, in collaboration with NRM South and Cradle Coast NRM, with funding through the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme.

NRM North's Regional Landcare Facilitator, Peter Heading, said Tasmanian farmers would benefit from hearing about some diverse approaches to farming.

"It's a good time for Tasmania's rural community to hold such an event looking at the different enterprises that are operating here and how diversity can help build resilience in the community," Mr Heading said.

"This will be an opportunity for people to exchange ideas and expertise and develop the confidence to consider such enterprises."

Mr Royds is a strong advocate of the natural sequence farming technique which he implements on his property. He also has a holistic management approach to his farm.

"Working with nature is more rewarding than not working with it and you feel better for it," Mr Royds said.

Jeff Pow has a pastured poultry operation and harvest. He prepares his birds in a custom-built poultry processor and approved micro-abattoir and sells them at the farm gate.

A number of Tasmanian farmers will also talk about their diverse farming enterprises including:

- Conversion to organic dairy and beef operations;
- Pastured poultry;
- Holistic grazing methods;
- Organic grain production;
- Large scale bulb production – cover crops;
- Biological farming and blueberries; and
- Large scale herb production.

One of the Tasmanian speakers, Geoff Atkinson, grew up on a traditional dairy farm in the north west. He now operates an organic dairy farm.

Mr Atkinson said he was looking forward to sharing his experiences at the forum.

“The mindset today about organic production is very different to previous perceptions. For instance, there are better products available and the industry is much more professional and can also provide expert advice on making the conversion,” Mr Atkinson said.

“Downstream processors have been getting into the market due to consumers demanding it and are willing to pay a good price for the product.”

The forum will be held at the Riverlands Centre on Wellington Street, Longford, from 9am to 5pm. The cost is \$25 per person.

Those interested in attending should RSVP by August 7 to NRM North on admin@nrmnorth.org.au.

For more information contact:

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