



Media Release

Wednesday, October 4th, 2017

In-depth soil investigation for broadacre cropping in northern Tasmania

Four broadacre cropping farms in the Northern Midlands and Meander Valley will 'bare their soils' this month as part of a series of events to help farmers improve soil health and increase yields.

Each farm will have two soil pits and a deep moisture probe, displaying the ways crops interact with soils and water over a wide range of conditions, soil types and crops.

The events have been organised by Southern Farming Systems' Tasmanian branch in a partnership with NRM North, with funding through the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

NRM North's Land Program Manager, Adrian James, said the events aimed to give farmers more information about soil/water/crop interactions so they could improve soil health and increase yields.

"Partnering with Southern Farming Systems is an ideal way to engage with broadacre cropping farmers," Mr James said.

"The group has skills and experience with cropping trials, soils and field days, plus a good network of growers in the Northern Midlands and surrounds."

Each event will cover the in-crop soil physical and chemical conditions which impact or promote yields, water infiltration, storage and evaporation, tillage management and more.

Southern Farming Systems' Tasmanian Project and Trials Manager, Ian Herbert, decided to bring a specialist forensic soils expert to the events.

"Previously Southern Farming Systems has engaged Christian Bannan from South East Soil and Water based in Victoria. Christian specialises in field identification of soil constraints and developing programs and techniques to overcome these constraints," Mr Herbert said.

"He has extensive experience in both broadacre cropping and irrigation and we are fortunate, through this project funded through NRM North, to be able to bring Christian to Tasmania."

The first event will be on Wednesday October 11 at 'Riccarton', Campbell Town, starting with breakfast at 8am. This will feature poppy and barley crops in an irrigation environment with limited water due to seasonal conditions.

The second event will start at 1pm at 'Oakdene', Perth, and will feature canola and clover seed crops under irrigation.

On Thursday October 12, the morning session will be at 'Woollen Park', Longford, and will highlight a wheat crop and white clover under irrigation.

In the afternoon, the program ends at 'Summerhill', Hagley, and will include a high-yielding wheat seed crop and white clover established on heavy soil.

Those interested in attending should RSVP by October 6 to NRM North at admin@nrmnorth.org.au or 6333 7777.

For more information contact:

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