



Media Release

Monday, 8th February, 2010

NORTHERN FARMERS OFFERED SOIL CARBON INCENTIVES

NRM North is offering farmers incentives to increase their soil carbon levels.

The incentives are available to farmers in the northern NRM region with cropping and grazing enterprises.

For graziers, NRM North can provide funding for fencing to subdivide larger paddocks into smaller ones. This enables more control over grazing intensity and pasture rest which helps pastures build up feed levels and soil carbon.

NRM North's Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator, Adrian James, said for cropping farms, NRM North was offering to pay for seed to be used in green manure crops this winter.

"Rather than leaving paddocks bare which results in the loss of carbon and other nutrients, green manure crops cover the soil over winter, recycle nutrients and reduce erosion." Mr James said.

When incorporated back into the soil, green manure crops provide a large boost in soil carbon and slow-release fertilizer for the following summer crop.

Mr James said carbon was an essential component of robust, productive soils.

"It's the food that microbes need to recycle nutrients and improve soil structure." Mr James said.

"Increasing soil carbon levels improves soil fertility, reduces the risk of erosion, improves water infiltration and water holding and reduces disease risks."

Expressions of interest are encouraged from farmers in the northern NRM region by the 26th of February.

Funding recipients will be required to make a co-contribution, enter into a management agreement and undertake the required works prior to July.

Expressions of interest can be sent to NRM North via email ajames@nrmnorth.org.au or fax 03 6334 2822.

These should include contact and property details, as well as details of the proposed works.

Farmers wanting more information should contact NRM North.

Ends

For more information contact:

Melissa Lewarn, Manager – Community Engagement, NRM North, 6333 7776 or 0427 354 058