



Regenerative grazing short course

Do you graze livestock on your property? Are you looking to jump to the next level? The Macedon Ranges Shire is hosting a practical short course for farmers keen to trial regenerative grazing management practices and boost soil health.

Expressions of interest (EOI) are now open to farmers in the Macedon Ranges Shire and Upper Coliban Catchment to participate in a practical short course over three sessions (spring, summer and autumn).

What is regenerative grazing?

Regenerative grazing management is a planning process that deals with the complexity of integrating livestock production with pasture growth and recovery whilst regenerating land, animal health and profitability.

Key principles include high stock density, long plant recovery and regular monitoring.

Regenerative grazing management can help farmers build a soil resource base, lower costs of production, and link rainfall and growing events. This decreases seasonal risk by supporting production and profit in times of climate variation.

What participants can expect

On completion of the short course you will understand how to:

1. Implement your own regenerative grazing demonstration trial.
2. Easily produce a practical, simple and low risk grazing plan.
3. Learn from successful regenerative graziers.
4. Select stock that perform in your environment and suit your management style.
5. Manage your animals using low-stress handling techniques, including tips for training working dogs.
6. Read your land, through a deeper understanding of how your farm functions as an ecosystem.
7. Fill feed gaps with warm and cool season grasses and forbs.
8. Design your farm and implement monitoring practices to reduce hillslope erosion and soil acidification, whilst building soil carbon and restoring the soil ecosystem.
9. Develop a plan for the infrastructure that suits your farm, including water, practice areas and flexible paddock design.



Course presenters

Colin Seis farms a 2,000 acre mixed-farm on the central slopes of NSW and pioneered the regenerative agriculture practice of pasture cropping. The property runs around 4000 Merino sheep, a Merino stud, and grows around 500 acres of crops annually to oats using the 'pasture cropping' technique. Colin also runs a farm consultancy business advising landholders and speaks at many workshops around Australia and internationally. In 2014 Colin won the Bob Hawke Landcare Award.



Graeme Hand farms beef cattle near Hamilton in Victoria and is the CEO of Stipa Native Grasses Association. He also runs his own consultancy business and has delivered countless workshops across Australia to cropping and grazing farmers on farm financial health checks, planned grazing and cover cropping.



Course program

Session	Date and location	Time	Topics
Session 1	05/10/2020 Online	7-9pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing your grazing management plan and demonstration trial.• Selecting a design that works for you.• Practical daily monitoring and corrective action for animal health and performance.• Stocking rate and land health.• Low-stress stock handling.• Preparing for spring and summer
	07/10/2020 Online	7-9pm	
	10/10/2020 Practical on farm session	3-5pm	
Session 2	27/11/2020	9am-5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selecting stock that perform in your environment and suit your management style.• Understanding hillslope erosion, soil acidification and soil carbon.• Preparing for the autumn break.• Farm visit to see regenerative grazing management in action.
Session 3	26/03/2021	9am-5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designing your grazing management plans for low risk profit.• Preparing for winter.• Farm visit to see regenerative grazing management in action.



Course fees

The course is supported by funding from the Commonwealth Government's National Landcare Program, hosted by Macedon Ranges Shire Council in partnership with Stipa Native Grasses Association.

Consequently, the course (normally valued at \$1,500) and with a portion now being online, is being offered at the highly discounted rate of **\$220** per farm business.

Course fees include:

- Workshops over the three days
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea
- Course notes
- Follow-up support.

Please note, participants will be required to cover the cost of their own regenerative grazing trial.

Eligibility

The course is open to farmers in the Macedon Ranges Shire and Upper Coliban Catchment. People from outside these areas are welcome to apply but priority will be given to those from within these areas.

How to apply

To apply, please fill in and submit the EOI form (available at www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/sustainable-farming) by **Wednesday, 23 September 2020**.

The course is limited to a minimum of five farms and a maximum of 20 farms.

EOIs should be submitted by:

Email: environment@mrsc.vic.gov.au

Mail: Jason McAinch
Macedon Ranges Shire Council
PO BOX 151, Kyneton, VIC, 3444.

Successful applicants will be notified by 31 August 2020.

For more information, contact Jason McAinch on 0455 210 436 or email jmcainch@mrsc.vic.gov.au