

Healthy Landscapes

Practical Regenerative
Agricultural Communities

Equine Land Management Grazing Course

The Equine Land Management Grazing Course forms part of the *Healthy Landscapes - Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities* program which aims to raise awareness about sustainable land management practices that improve soil health, reduce exposure to climate risk, enhance biodiversity and increase productivity.

About the course

The Course has been designed to assist land managers to improve their skills and knowledge about grazing horses, resulting in an increase in horse health, less weeds, lower purchase feed and an increase in perennial pasture species, including native species.

The presenters are Jason McAinch and Justine Image.

The course will incorporate:

- Face to face theory learning, Practical on-property learning and an individualised property visit.



Who is the course for?

The course is structured for large and small landholders with grazing horses of all sizes. Landholders in the Macedon Ranges Shire, Hepburn Shire, Mount Alexander Shire or the City of Greater Bendigo are eligible to attend.

Cost

The cost of the course is \$75 per property (up to two participants). We would encourage two members of the property decision making team to attend. Afternoon tea is supplied.

Venue

It will be held on an equine property in Lockwood South (between Bendigo and Maldon).

To register, fill out the online form at mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthylandscapes

For more information contact Private Land Conservation Officer, Jason McAinch on 0455 210 436 or at jmcainch@mrsc.vic.gov.au.

Course Outline

Prior to Session 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-course questionnaire, property mapping and layout 	
Session 1 Friday 17 October 2pm – 6pm	Setting the big picture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soils and mineral cycle, water cycle, pastures and energy cycle Biodiversity and community dynamics Grazing fundamentals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding grass and legume species and seasonal growth Consequences of overgrazing Importance of soil cover Rotational and cell grazing (planned grazing) Equine fundamentals Operational Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track systems Need for supplementary hay/hard feed Manure management on paddocks, yards and laneways Understand resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour/management resources and current Infrastructure Climate and rainfall Financial resources available Action: start a plan.	Theory session
Session 2 Friday 31 October 2pm – 6pm	Practical – property visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and discuss details from session 1 Revegetation and plants for horses Understand resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding your situation and your property Number and type of grazing animals Special needs and health issues Financial resources available 	Practical and theory session
Session 3 Friday 14 November 2pm – 6pm	Practical – property visit Strategies to improve landscape Weeds Further planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning process flowchart (including feedback loop) Setting specific objectives and creating a base plan Defining functional areas/assets required Creating and comparing alternative layouts Implementing the plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine priority actions and who will implement them Develop greater detail and cost estimates 	Practical and theory session
Nov - Feb	1:1 property visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate grazing plan and ACTION plan. Address barrier to further implementation. 	Individual property visits