



AgForce Projects

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Carbon, grazing and timber: Can they co-exist?

New opportunities for landholders to earn an income from managing vegetation while maintaining a successful grazing operation are the focus of a free AgForce Projects carbon/forestry field day in Gayndah on Friday, 20 May.

AgForce Projects technical leader Graeme Bell said the field day will outline the pros and cons of the current carbon policy and explain how landholders can balance making money from trees with existing farm-based land management practices.

"The opportunities available to landholders include growing trees for harvest, as an environmental offset or a carbon offset under the new Carbon Farming Initiative," Mr Bell said.

The field day will feature key spokespeople from the timber, forestry and carbon industries outlining how these initiatives can be balanced with running a profitable grazing business.

Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) research scientist and guest speaker on the day, Tom Lewis, will show how landholders can calculate the potential carbon, timber and grazing productivity of their land using a new online spotted gum productivity assessment tool.

Mr Lewis said landholders can use the online tool to assess the potential economic and environmental benefits of combined timber and grazing production on their land. He said the tool also identifies the potential advantages of managing forest to increase the proportion of the forest that is of merchantable value, such as thinning areas of the forest to concentrate growth in the most productive trees.

AgForce policy director Drew Wagner said the field day will outline some of the opportunities and actions landholders can take to play a positive role in the solution and not the problem in the carbon trading market and climate change as a whole.

"While the role that agriculture will play within any carbon constrained economy is still under development, the relationship between vegetation management, timber growth and agricultural production may be of pivotal importance," Mr Wagner said.

The field day is free to all landholders and will be held at Brian Pastures Research Station, near Gayndah. To find out more or to register for the event please contact Paddy Roe on (07) 3238 6048 or email roep@agforward.org.au

This field day is delivered through the Australian Government's Caring for our Country Carbon on Farm initiative, with support from the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation.

For comment call Graeme Bell on (07) 3238 6016 or 0428 157 086.

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