Holistic Grazing Management Course

The Holistic Grazing Management 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 Holistic Grazing Management Course has been designed to assist land managers to improve their skills and knowledge about grazing livestock, resulting in an increase in soil carbon and perennial pasture species, including native species.

Along with the presenters Jason McAinch and Sam White, guest speakers will be used to enhance the delivery of the program.

The course will incorporate:

* Sessions delivered between Sept 2023 and May 2024
* Face to face theory learning (6 days)
* Online (Zoom) theory learning and support sessions
* Practical on-property learning

Who is the course for?

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

Grazing Fundamentals

Limiting sunlight hitting bare soil and increasing the time green pastures are growing increases the time plants are photosynthesising. Through proper grazing, this results in more energy/sugars/carbon entering the soil and the grazing animal. The consistent green pasture cover increases life and organic matter in soils, resulting in additional nutrient cycling. Land managers are rewarded as the soil is able to hold more moisture while drainage is improved.

Cost

The cost of the course is $150 per property (up to two participants). We would encourage two members of the property decision making team to attend. Morning tea and lunch supplied.

**To register, fill out the online form at** [**www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/healthylandscapes**](http://www.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**

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| DAY 1Friday 15 SeptFace to face930am - ~4pm | **Setting the big picture** * Bring an aerial photo!
* Energy cycle, water cycle, nutrient cycle, community
* Complicated and complex
* Introduction to grassland species
* Introduction to how grasses grow
 | Sedgwick Hall |
| * Animals and Grassland - Not all grass is good for animals
* Developing a grazing plan “tool”
* Water & Fencing for stock
* Setting a short-term action plan.
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| DAY 2Friday 13 OctFace to face10am -~3pm | **Setting up your property** **Practical – Property visit*** Identify grasses (C3 & C4) and herbs/forbs. Tufted, stoloniferous and taproot
* Animal gut health
* Practical water, fencing, stock handling infrastructure
* Hay, Soils and seed heads
 | Sidonia Beef - Sidonia |
| DAY 3Friday 17 NovFace to face930am - ~3pm | **Soils** * Soil biology, Soil testing, Carbon farming
 | Daylesford - TBC |
| **Practical – Property visit*** Soils, soil properties & soil sampling
 | On farm - TBC |
| Tuesday 28 Nov730pm – 830pm | **Review of Day 1-3**Review of summer planningPractical feed budgeting | Online |
| Dec - Feb | **1:1 property visits** * Consolidate foundation learning on grazing grasslands.
* Consolidate grazing plan & ACTION plan
 | Individual property visits |
| DAY 4Friday 16 FebFace to face930am - ~3pm | **Weeds and Biodiversity*** Woody weeds – gorse, blackberry, rose.
* Annual weeds - capeweed
* Reasons for resowing/crops
 | Malmsbury Hall |
| **Trees** * Creating biodiverse farms & Revegetation techniques
* Paddock trees
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| DAY 5Friday 22 MarchFace to face930am - ~3pm | **Water - Practical – Property visit*** Hydration of soils
* Pugging soils
* Riparian zones
 | Gisborne |
| **Monitoring*** monitoring soil health
* monitoring landscape health
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| Tuesday 16 April730pm – 830pm | **Review of Course Days**Review of autumn and winter planningFeed budgeting and practical feed budgeting | Online |
| DAY 6Friday 12 MayFace to face930am - ~3pm | **Community** * Revisit our plans
* Economics – does this meet our financial needs?
* Celebrate the success
 | Sidonia Beef - Sidonia |