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 August 2024 and May 2025
* 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, Mount Alexander 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 2 AugustFace 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
 | Malmsbury Town Hall (TBC) |
| * 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 23 AugustFace 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 13 SeptemberFace to face930am - ~3pm | **Soils** * Soil biology, Soil testing, Carbon farming
 | Malmsbury Town Hall (TBC) |
| **Practical – Property visit*** Soils, soil properties & soil sampling
 | On farm - TBC |
| Sept - Oct | **1:1 property visits** * Consolidate foundation learning on grazing grasslands.

Consolidate grazing plan & ACTION plan | Individual property visits |
| Tuesday 8 October730pm – 830pm | **Review of Day 1-3**Review of spring & summer planningPractical feed budgeting | Online |
| DAY 4Friday 22 NovemberFace to face**2pm - ~8pm** | **Water - Practical*** Hydration of soils
* Pugging soils
* Riparian zones
 | Sidonia Beef - Sidonia |
| **Monitoring*** monitoring soil health
* monitoring landscape health
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| DAY 5Friday 14 FebruaryFace to face930am - ~3pm | **Weeds and Biodiversity*** Woody weeds – gorse, blackberry, rose.
* Annual weeds - capeweed
* Reasons for resowing/crops
 | Malmsbury Town Hall(TBC) |
| **Trees** * Creating biodiverse farms & Revegetation techniques
* Paddock trees
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| Wednesday 2 April730pm – 830pm | **Review of Course Days**Review of autumn and winter planningFeed budgeting and practical feed budgeting | Online |
| DAY 6Friday 16 MayFace to face930am - ~3pm | **Community** * Revisit our plans
* Economics – does this meet our financial needs?
* Celebrate the success
 | Sidonia Beef - Sidonia |