

## Greenhouse Gas Forum Evaluation.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

### **Why did people come?**

All wanted an update or to get information on Greenhouse gas emissions and what farmers can do. A few also mentioned interest in soil carbon. Expectations were met for all participants.

### **What worked well?**

Speakers and discussion mentioned by all

### **What are you going to do as a result of attending today?**

- Report back to Gippslandcare and write a report for Landcare. I'll be better informed to give advice and do my job. Not cutting hay any more and I've reduced stock already. I'm looking to improve soil structure through addition of organic fertilisers (30 acre hobby farm)
- Develop information with other agency staff
- Update DfT coordination team with information from today. Talk about "where to:" related to potential emission scheme/ How do we link this information into PD for dairy service industry?
- Improve all aspects. Record on Melb. Uni. Spreadsheet all information possible on Greenhouse
- Explore options using Monensin and use of tannins
- Continue the learning curve, aerate soil, change fertilisers, more ground cover
- Try to find more recent websites for farm emission measurements; do something to start selecting cows for increased production and pasture conversion; work on energy supplementation to match protein
- Look at pasture species/seasonal impacts and reassess what we do
- Bring on board practical actions from today's delivery
- Reduce cattle numbers; sell off older cattle earlier; manage pasture better; will study up more through recommended websites
- I will try and analyse things and then implement things
- Look further into soil health; use spreadsheets/calculator re GHG
- Continue with the challenge
- Leave with more knowledge and more informed
- Keep on with shelter belt- work on soil biology; watch market for Methane limiters on market
- Best thing I got out of today was about Pasture improvement reducing methane production. An easy to implement, immediately altering way to reduce emissions whilst improving production
- Look up more about soils and how to build them up and make healthier. Learn more about effect of carbon on soil

- Develop procedures for managing Greenhouse emissions and encourage all Enviromeat farmers to do the day. Seek monitoring systems that can give us accurate feedback on progress; Put notes from the day onto Enviromeat website

**Have you identified opportunities that should be followed up?**

- Richard to present to DfT coordinators possibly
- Leaflets to Landcare groups and promotion of websites
- More forums like today; spread the word to other farmers; continue growing and planting trees
- Methane production reduction possibilities
- Written handouts
- Establish regional networks/alliances to improve the awareness and understanding of both emissions and climate change issues
- Carbon trading areas and the greenhouse matters
- Increase awareness about the vaccine; greater sharing with landcare groups of the Greenhouse emission challenge. Landcare's adaptation to climate change.
- More landholders need to be aware of Richard's research and the way it can improve productivity whilst reducing Greenhouse gasses
- Best pasture management, methane reducers, grazing management, animal health, and genetics for highest calving type best in FCE; I do not see Carbon trading as a helpful strategy. Rather I see it as just another Tax to disadvantage the caring societies in the world economies. If Australian beef carries a new Government charge but Argentina does not Australian producers will loose on market price. So I believe hasten slowly and don't handicap yourself against competitors.
- I will be incorporating the Greenhouse Gas perspective into my upcoming pasture management field day. Such a benefit should be communicated widely.
- Let farmers know who is out there to help and advise them in the areas discussed today.
- Need some good easy to understand handouts to use as extension material. Need to be able to measure ability to store carbon sustainably in the soil.
- Monitoring emissions still inadequate at farm gate. Need to develop better and more accurate tools.