

Incentive projects on farms 2021

CASE STUDY

Snapshot:

Enhancing soil health, ground cover, biodiversity and native vegetation.

As the Healthy Soils, Productive Pastures project moves into its second year, more incentive grants for farmers to undertake on-ground projects are on offer. To date, ten farmers have been successful in procuring grants through the National Landcare Program. These farmers are proactive and passionate about adopting best practice, aspiring to build the resilience of their farm by building soil health, increasing ground cover and protecting native vegetation and local waterways.

Some of the activities the farmers will undertake include: fence installation to subdivide paddocks. With smaller paddocks, the farmers can implement rotational grazing, which is becoming increasingly adopted by graziers to build soil health, increase ground cover and improve the health of stock. The farmers will also install alternative watering points. This is to ensure a reliable water source for the livestock but also to exclude stock from accessing sensitive areas on properties such as riparian zones, native bushland areas and farm dams.



David Rawlinson checking on new calves on the Upper Macdonald property

Four of the seven projects will also undertake revegetation. Landholder couple, Tony and Debbie Biffin will revegetate three farm dams on their family-run dairy farm, located in Cawdor, south west Sydney. Plants will range from native canopy species, to create windbreaks for shading and reducing evaporation as well as groundcover species around the dam in order to create habitat and improve water quality. The dams will also be fenced to exclude dairy cattle from accessing the dam with alternative watering points to be installed, piping dam water to adjacent water troughs.

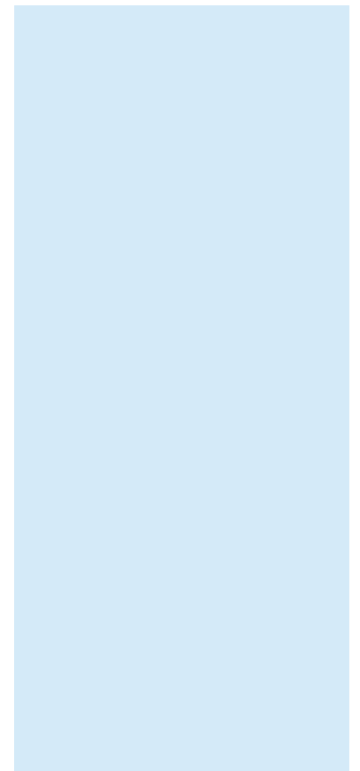
Noah Moseley, Farm manager at Calmsley Hill City Farm will also subdivide paddocks to allow him to rest paddocks for longer as well as reduce the effects of selective grazing by sheep.

He will also plant two tree shelter belts of native vegetation on the property, each 40 metres by 3 metres, providing benefits to farm productivity and habitat conservation.

In the Upper Macdonald, Hawkesbury, Vera and David will subdivide their most productive paddocks by installing fencing, as well as installing alternate water sources for their stock off river. They will also install a radio repeater, which is a receiver/transmitter that can access remote data of tank water levels to ensure that livestock have water at all times. They will also apply compost, sow a mix of pasture blends and native seed and plant a further 60 tube-stock of native tree and shrub species to improve the soil health and vegetation in these paddocks.



One of the three dams to be vegetated and fenced on the Biffin dairy farm



Paddocks to be subdivided at Calmsley Hill City Farm

For further information:



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Local Land Services



Australian Government

National Landcare Program



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