

Jeremy Bradley

Australian Government Innovation in Sustainable Farm Practices Award

Jeremy is a self-confessed “extreme carbon farmer”. He operates a small farm in the Hastings Valley where he rotationally grazes cattle with a difference. With his focus clearly on the soil, cattle are used as the ‘top-link’ in the soil foodchain (manure distributors). Jeremy uses self-modified machinery to simultaneously mulch pasture residue and inoculate the soil and mulch with live microbes, selected to breakdown and incorporate plant material into the soil, building soil carbon and enhancing microbial activity. With minimal inputs, Jeremy has increased the soil pH throughout the profile, effectively deepening the topsoil, enabling stronger root system development and enhanced productivity.

In his horticulture, Jeremy has developed and promoted the use of minimal-till green manure incorporation using compost-tea and a pasture mulcher for the production of in-situ compost.

Jeremy has been enthusiastically involved in research and trials of new techniques and has encouraged learning and adoption of low cost regenerative biological farming techniques through extensive participation in conferences and leadership of field days and demonstration trials. He has shared his passion and knowledge with agricultural students at schools throughout the region and was instrumental in the development of the Mid North Coast Microherders group for which he continues to operate the Facebook, email help desk and website and organises and runs biological farming workshops and field days.

His innovations include new ways of combining and incorporating selected microbes into farming soils, the introduction of new cover-crop/green-manure methods and species, a focus on the selection and use of locally sourced microbes and the dissemination of the knowledge of the values of local biology in soil-building.

