



MEDIA RELEASE

Landmark's livestock specialists will learn that production increases go hand-in-hand with improved natural resource management.

Increasing livestock and cropping productivity as well as ensuring a 'duty of care' for natural resources will be the focus of the second day of the Victorian and Southern NSW Landmark Livestock Conference to be held at Bendigo on August 18 & 19.

Landmark's livestock specialists from both states will have the opportunity to be brought up-to-date with the latest information on the outstanding benefits that the introduction of lucerne and perennial pastures can offer to their landholder clients in both production gains and the management of natural resources.

This day follows on from the very successful Lucerne and Perennial Pasture Workshops at Hamilton, Echuca and Horsham earlier this year conducted by Carole Hollier, Valerie Little and Peter Ockenden from Department of Primary Industries (DPI) on behalf of the CRC for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity and Landmark.

Paul Lomax and Greg Toomey, Landmark's Bendigo branch agronomists, in conjunction with Adrian Dryden – Heritage Seeds and the DPI team will explain the importance of understanding site selection, establishment and management of lucerne and perennial pastures. They will demonstrate that once the basics are right then the benefits will follow.

The capacity of lucerne and other perennials to fight rising water tables is well known. By their introduction as a rotation for annual cropping it will give landholders assistance in the better management of their plants and soils in reducing insects and weed pests. The natural nitrogen boost lucerne can give to the soil provides higher crop production levels. Natural resource management is an important side benefit.

These livestock specialists will be encouraged to seek in-house and CRC agronomic advice, because in establishing good pastures, it is recommended that only certified seeds are used at all times. By doing so landholders will be assured that the plant type is true to the variety labelled and is not a cross of several different varieties. As well, unwanted weeds will not be introduced into the paddock and the landholder can expect better seed germination rates.

The Salinity CRC places great importance on the transfer of information provided by Landmark agronomists.

Kevin Graham, Landmark – Salinity Project Manager said the reported increase of lucerne seed sales by the Landmark branches in Victoria and southern NSW is encouraging, especially with Victoria reporting a three-fold increase for the last year.

“With landholders looking at more mixed farming operations, this day will equip the participants with the basics about dryland salinity and the latest information on the benefits of lucerne and perennial pastures in countering rising water tables while simultaneously producing production benefits.”

Further information:

Kevin Graham

Salinity Project Manager

Landmark

Office (07) 3842 7732 Mobile 0418 411 351