SOIL CRC

Charles Sturt University · North Central Catchment Management Authority · Southern Cross University

Soil Management

Landholder Survey of North Central Catchment Management Area

800 rural landholders told us about their land management

Land management issues for North Central Victoria

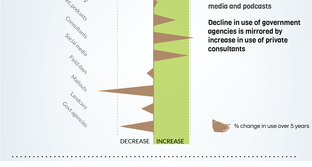
MOST important		LEAST important
1 Changing weather patterns	71 / 17 / 9	Irrigation salinity
2 Quality of water in farm dams during drought	66 / 22 / 11 / 9	Dams on rural properties reducing runoff to natural waterways
3 Movement of irrigation water away for the region	62 / 13 / 33	Dryland salinity
4 Impact of pest plants and animals on native spp.	61 / 30 / 9	Stock damage to native vegetation along waterways & wetlands
5 Risk to life and property from wildfire	64 / 22 / 14 / 9	Nutrient runoff from rural properties affecting water quality
6 Crop weed resistance to herbicides	63 / 19 / 17 / 13	Less water available to support recreation on rivers and lakes

key: important · some importance · not important · don't know

Soils issues for North Central Victoria

What best practices are used in North Central Victoria?

Which info sources are used?



Note how....

Use of many 'traditional' info sources declined from 2014 –19

Most increases are in new, web based channels such as social media and podcasts

Decline in use of government agencies is mirrored by increase in use of private consultants

Who are North Central Victoria's landholders ?

Full time Farmers	Part time Farmers	Hobby Farmers	Non Farmers
49%	19%	13%	19%
♂ 88%	♂ 75%	♂ 70%	♂ 58%
800 ha Owned farm 74 yrs Spend >51 hpw on farm	142 ha Owned farm 42 yrs Spend 17-30 hpw on farm	30ha Owned farm for 25yrs Spend <18 hrpw on farm	30ha Owned farm 21 yrs Spend <18 hrpw on farm

Values

Most important value for ALL = ability to pass on a healthier environment to future generations. However.....

Full time farmers value the ....

- productive value of their soil
- accomplishment of a viable farm business
- farm as an important source of family income

Part time farmers value the.....

- productive value of their soil
- accomplishment of a viable farm business
- accomplishment of primary production

Hobby farmers value the

- property as an attractive place to live
- native vegetation as it provides habitat for native birds and animals
- property as a place to escape pressures of life

Non farmers value the...

- property as an attractive place to live
- native vegetation as it provides habitat for native birds and animals
- native vegetation as it makes the property an attractive place to live

Participation

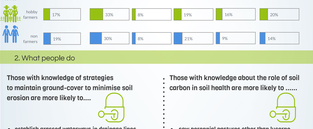
In the past 5 years took part in.....

	farmers %	P/T farmers %	hobby farmers %	non farmers %
a soil health group	9	4	2.5	0
a commodity group	28	10	6	3
a soil event	45	28	18	7

Who feels most capable of applying best practice?

When individuals felt they possessed knowledge they were more likely to use best management practices

1. What people know



2. What people do

Those with knowledge of strategies to maintain ground-cover to minimise soil erosion are more likely to....

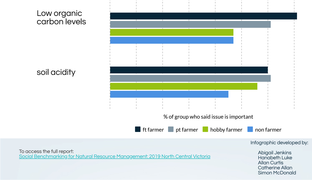
- establish grassed waterways in drainage lines
- use time controlled/ rotation grazing
- use minimum/no tillage to establish crops and pastures
- work annually to control non crop weeds

Those with knowledge about the role of soil carbon in soil health are more likely to .....

- sow perennial pastures other than lucerne
- test soil nutrient status in paddocks where fertiliser or amendment were applied.

Major soil issues for North Central Victoria by landholder type

Most important property-scale issue for ALL= Soil erosion



To access the full report:
Social Benchmarking for Natural Resource Management 2019 North Central Victoria

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