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BREWING LOWER COSTS AND HIGHER YIELDS

Workshop to help cane farmers brew their own fertilisers and reduce production costs

Cane farmers have gathered this week in Eton, to learn how to produce a wide range of on-farm inputs including bio-fertilisers at a three day workshop. The techniques have been imported from Latin America with similar climate and crops to our region.

Michael and John Attard, have been using the techniques on their 100ha cane farm for the past three years and report positive results. They have reduced their synthetic nitrogen inputs by more than half to 60 units, which is effectively producing sugar above mill average.

“Since we started using our own on-farm produced inputs, we’ve cut our costs by half and production is up 30 tonnes per hectare”, Michael said.

Delivering the course is regenerative agriculture expert Kym Kruse from RegenAG[®]. He is optimistic about opportunities for the 12 farmers attending the course this week.

“Beneficial microbes are cheap labour. We want to share the theory and the practical methods of supporting them in the soil to help farmers move away from the unaffordable inputs that drive down farm profitability”, Kym said.

The course will cover a number of specific brewing processes as well as chromatography, a simple and inexpensive tool showing the relationships between organic matter, microbes and minerals.

Reef Catchments is supporting the event with the shared aims to improve soil health, farm profitability and decrease unnecessary losses of nitrogen.

ENDS

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