17/04/2015

**Soil Health Field Day | Mackay**

How to address the ‘big issues’ of soil is a challenge faced by every farmer - including compaction, calcium and soil carbon levels. Growers are invited to learn more at the second annual Soil Health Field Day on **Tuesday 26th May**. The day includes a breakfast and soil health presentations from experts in their field at Wests Leagues Club, followed by a field tour at Simon Mattsson’s property in Marian. Information will focus on how to address and improve soil health on-farm for the long term.

Speakers include:

**- Colin Seis (pasture cropping)**
Widely recognised in Australia as a pasture cropping pioneer, Colin provides firsthand insight into his own experiences improving soil health, including through plant diversity and no till methods.

**- Gerry Gillespie (City to Soil Project)**
Gerry will provide an overview of composting for increased soil carbon. Gerry’s method for compost can be done on-farm without the need for expensive turners.

**- Simon Mattsson (cane farmer)**Local grower and Nuffield Scholar, Simon Mattsson, has just returned from his Nuffield travels and will present findings after spending time overseas exploring soil health issues in New Zealand, Chile, Peru and Brazil. Simon will also provide an update on his rotational crop trial in Marian.

The event will be followed by a composting workshop on **Wednesday 27th May** for those with an interest in learning techniques firsthand. The workshop will be run by Gerry Gillespie and David Hardwick. Cost is $30 p/person.

To RSVP for both these events please contact Reef Catchments info@reefcatchments.com or phone (07) 4968 4200 by **Monday 18th May**.

**With thanks to event sponsors:** Reef Catchments, CANEGROWERS, Wilmar, Mackay Sugar, North Queensland Tropical Seeds, Mackay Rural Supplies, Superior Fertilisers and MAPS.

**Grazing Forum | Mackay**
Canefarmers in the Mackay region who are also involved or have an interest in cattle and beef production are invited to attend the annual Grazing Forum, coming up again on **Wednesday 3rd June 2015** at the Mackay Entertainment and Convention Centre (MECC).

The popular forum attracts upwards of 150+ attendees from across the region. Find out more on the latest developments in fertility, sustainable grazing (including land and pasture management) and the opportunities and challenges faced locally by beef producers and combined operators (beef/cane).

This is a free event for landholders. To secure your place RSVP to info@reefcatchments.com or phone (07) 4968 4200.