



Farming for Sustainable Soils

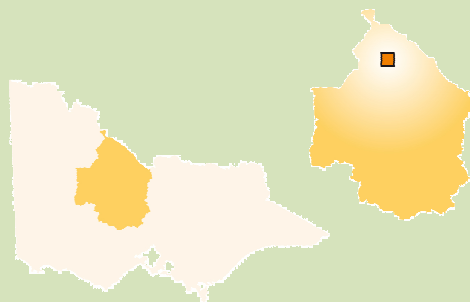
COMMUNITIES PROTECTING THE SOIL

Group Name

Normanville Group

Key Achievements

- Local soil plans completed
- 50 soil samples analysed
- 20 farmers adopting minimum till practices
- 22 farms using yield prophet
- On farm demonstrations of new seed varieties
- 500ha of EM 38 surveys



Group Area

The Normanville area straddles the boundary of the Mallee lands with the Riverine Plains to the immediate east, and encompasses the Avoca floodplain to the west. The area south west of Kerang is largely dryland cropping and grazing but encompasses part of the Northern Irrigation region with many farmers in the area having some irrigated land with reduced or complete loss of water allocations as a result of drought, irrigation reforms and market forces.

About the Group

The Normanville Group is a large, open group of cropping farmers who were originally formed as a Farm Advance group and have been meeting since the early 1990's. It has a membership list of 40 odd farming families.

Land use

The main land uses are wheat (and barley) production and grazing sheep for wool and prime lambs. Since 1997 the region has been severely affected by drought and below average rainfall, especially in the growing seasons. This risk along with loss of water allocation, soil erosion, generally low commodity prices, higher input prices and scarce labour resources put a large amount of financial and personal pressure and increased risk on farming enterprises, families and individuals.



2010-2011 Activities

- EM Soils Mapping and Baseline soil sampling
- Yield Prophet crop model
- Machinery modification to permit adoption of direct drill sowing
- WeedSeeker spray technology demonstrations
- New seed variety trials
- Increase skills in sustainable farming practices through training and education

2012 Activities

- Baseline Soil Analysis
- Erosion Risk Assessments
- New Crop and Pasture Varieties
- Assessing the extent of Herbicide Resistant Ryegrass in the Normanville area
- Yield Prophet crop model
- Increasing farmers knowledge to protect and gain maximum production of their soils
- Increase skills in sustainable farming practices through training and education