

Fact sheet 9 - Soil Health

Issues

- Degraded, compacted soils
- Low fertility and/or locked up nutrients
- Low pH
- Set stocking
- Little education about soil health



Actions

- Soil testing
- Training: *Regenerative Soil Management, Soil Health Focus Groups, BeefCheque, Prograze*
- Changing fertiliser inputs to biologically friendly
- Spreading limes that are more available more quickly
- Fencing into smaller paddocks
- Installing stock water
- Rotational grazing
- Planting shelter belts

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Costs (approximate, as at June 2009):

- Fencing: \$5-8 per metre
- Troughs & fittings: \$500 each
- Chicken litter: \$23 - \$30 per cubic metre (depending on distance from supplier) plus spreading cost
- Lime: \$60 – \$100 delivered (depending on distance from supplier and quarry price) plus spreading cost
- *Regenerative Soil Management*: FarmReady approved – Primary Producers and their management team are currently eligible for full reimbursement of the cost (\$1,320)

Benefits

- Reduced fertiliser requirements over time (better nutrient cycling & availability)
- Lifting productivity
- Improved animal health
- Improved carcase quality
- Better pasture quality, less weeds
- Better water infiltration (better growth response to rain)
- Better drought tolerance