



RAY Boys

**Beef Farm, Strzelecki  
336 Acres, 350 - 600 Head**

With the help of Targeted Land Stewardship funding, beef farmer Ray Boys has greatly improved the quality of his pasture and health of his soil by adding chicken manure to his steep property in the Strzelecki Hills.

The quality and fast recovery of pasture has meant Ray's heifers were experiencing 2kg daily weight gain. This was achieved with 600 heifers on his property.

Ray has used chicken manure on his pasture for several years as an alternative to traditional fertiliser regimes, and was able with the help of the Land Stewardship program, to receive extra funding to continue this process.

"I use chicken manure as it has a far lower cost than super and is less acidifying to the soil. It also limes the soil at the same time."

Chicken manure is high in nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, the organic matter present in the manure also retains soil moisture and nutrients.

Soil analysis on the property has also found that since Ray has started the chicken manure regime his pH has risen to be around 6.2 from around 4.2 to 5 when he first brought the property 10 years ago.

By applying 3 cubic metres of chicken manure per acre every 2-3 years, Ray has seen not only improved pasture quality.



**“ Using chicken manure has improved the health of my pasture and is giving my heifers 2kg weight gain a day ”**



### What is the Targeted Land Stewardship Program?

Many landholders feel strongly about the land and about leaving it in a good condition for future generations. In some cases this means leaving it in a better condition than when they found it. Land Stewardship is having a sense of responsibility for the land and landscapes.

The Westernport Targeted Land Stewardship program provides support and funding to landholders to become a better land steward. The program is a partnership that encourages and pays farmers for land stewardship activities that provide ecosystem services that benefit the wider community (such as healthy waterways from revegetation) that are not rewarded in current markets.

This project includes:

- Funding for Revegetation and Remnant Protection
- Payment for Soil Improvement Works
- Subsidised Whole Farm Planning & Computer Mapping Training Courses
- Subsidised Soil Health Training Courses
- Discussion Groups and Field Days

### How can the Targeted Land Stewardship Program help you improve your soil?

The Western Port Targeted Land Stewardship program provides support and funding to landholders to deliver effective sustainable management on their land. This includes funding at a set amount per hectare for soil health improvement works.

The project will also assist with funding for:

- Increasing Organic Matter (Adding Fertilisers ect)
- Aeration
- Adding Microbes
- Increasing Pasture Cover to > 80%
- Application of High Quality Lime
- Nutrient Budgeting
- Application of Organic Fertilisers
- Effluent Management Planning
- Soil Testing



### Key Management Actions

- Used chicken manure as fertiliser
- Undertaken more soil tests around his property

### Benefits:

- Improved his pasture recovery
- Improved his pH
- Reduced input costs
- Increased vegetation along creeks to trap nutrients



### Further Information

To take part in this project or for further details contact your local Landcare Network:

■ Kathleen Bartlett  
South Gippsland Landcare Network - 0400 141 929

■ Bridgette McCallum  
Western Port Landcare Network - 0403 195 879

■ Joel Geoghegan  
Bass Coast Landcare Network - 0409 705 652

