

The Benefits of Managing Biodiversity to the Farming Community.

Whole Farm Benefits

- Economic benefits through market based incentives including [BushBroker](#), EcoTender (through the [ecoMarkets](#) program) and [CarbonTender](#)
- Commercial markets are just starting to investigate "clean and green" agriculture - there is a potential market opportunity for Victorian agriculture.
- Potential to demonstrate environmental credentials of products
- Retention of soil moisture
- Access to funding for some works
- Utilization and enhancement of land unsuited to cropping or grazing
- Reduction of pest plants
- Increased yields
- Erosion control
- Increased property values
- Linking and enhancing wildlife corridors, protecting flora and fauna for future generations
- Lowering of water table, reducing salinity

Shelterbelt establishment

- Increased shelter for stock, pasture and crops (resulting in increased production)
- Better working and living conditions for the family
- Increased property value
- Potential wildlife corridors
- Fewer stock losses
- Return of bird and other wildlife species
- Legacy for future generations
- Contributes to lower water tables
- Contributes to reduced erosion
- Improved property landscape and aesthetics
- Spray drift moderated
- Stabilizes soil surface, reducing erosion.
- Increased stock health
- Fire protection (slower wind speeds)

Retention of remnant vegetation

- Improved property landscape and aesthetics
- Less reliance on introduced pollinators
- Conservation and protection of rare species
- Natural regeneration of indigenous species
- Legacy for future generations
- Seed supply for on-farm revegetation
- Habitat for birds, mammals and insects (potential reduction in insecticide use)
- Increased gross value of pasture output (at its highest when proportion of remnants is 34%)
- Increased shelter for stock, pasture and crops (resulting in increased production)
- Reduced salinity, water logging, wind and water erosion problems
- Potential for family recreational opportunities (bird watching, nature walks, etc.)
- Increased property values

Maintenance of native grasses

- Feed source (selective grazing) in summer

- Low or no fertilizer required
- Suitable where soil quality is lower
- Low risk, low cost
- Utilization of land unsuited to intensive cropping and grazing
- Reduced micron size for wool

Retention or establishment of native vegetation around farm dams, waterways and wetlands

- Water retention and levels greatly improved
- Improved water quality for farm and whole catchment
- Bank stabilisation
- Increase in wildlife species (waterfowl, fish, yabbies etc)
- Natural pest control (e.g. waterfowl eat the snail that hosts the liver fluke parasite in sheep)
- Natural filtration
- Interception and use of nutrients before entering storage, reducing the risk of algal blooms, salinity and turbidity

Wetlands established

- Fire protection (firebreak and water source)
- Drought back-up
- Habitat created (with resultant natural pest control)
- Improved water quality for farm and whole catchment

References.

DSE (2004) Environmental Management in Agriculture, Native Biodiversity Resource Kit, DSE, East Melbourne.

http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/dpi/vro/vrosite.nsf/pages/lwm_biodiversity_models Biodiversity in Agriculture (viewed 01/10/08).