

Course fees

The course is supported by funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, hosted by the Goulburn Broken CMA in partnership with Stipa Native Grasses Association and Goulburn Murray Landcare. Subsequently, the course is being offered at the highly discounted rate of \$400 per farm (normally valued at \$1,500).

Course fees include:

- ✓ Workshops over the three days
- ✓ Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea
- ✓ Course notes
- ✓ Online webinar support.

Please note, the course fees do not include accommodation and travel expenses to attend the course. Furthermore, participants will be required to cover the cost of their own cover cropping trial. Successful applicants will be required to pay the full course fee by Monday 13 March 2017.

How to apply

The course is open to farmers in the Goulburn Broken Catchment. People from outside the catchment are welcome to apply but priority will be given to those from within the catchment.

To apply, please fill in and submit the EOI form (available at www.gbcma.vic.gov.au). The course is limited to a minimum of five farms and a maximum of 20 farms. EOIs should be submitted by Wednesday 1 March 2017 by emailing ashleyr@gbcma.vic.gov.au or posting to PO BOX 124, Benalla VIC 3672. Successful applicants will be notified by Thursday 2 March 2017.



COVER CROPPING short course



Practical short course for farmers keen to trial multi-species cover cropping and boost soil health.

Expressions of interest (EOI) are now open for three by one-day short course in multi-species cover cropping for managers of mixed farming operations.

Multi-species cover cropping can help farmers build a soil resource base that supports production and profit in times of increased climate variation.

They also benefit integrated pest management strategies by providing habitat for predatory insects and bees.

The course will cover a range of topics including:

- ✓ Designing your own cover-cropping demonstration trial
- ✓ Achieving good crop yields
- ✓ Measuring changes in nutrient cycling, water infiltration and stability of your soil
- ✓ Managing key soil health processes to improve soil condition and increase farm resilience
- ✓ Increasing profitability while lowering risk

The training will also cover the material in the recently released Holistic Management® Planned Cropping Manual.

This course is supported by funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme, hosted by the Goulburn Broken CMA in partnership with Stipa Native Grasses Association and Goulburn Murray Landcare



What participants can expect

On completion of the short course you will understand:

- ① Multi-species mix (both cool and warm season) to address your resource concern or animal performance.
- ② Suitability of your seed drill.
- ③ How to manage stubble/litter levels.
- ④ Fertiliser and herbicide requirements.
- ⑤ Time of planting – can you plant dry?
- ⑥ In-crop requirements.
- ⑦ Grazing impact on soil health and animal performance.
- ⑧ Selecting the level of regeneration to reach your goals.
- ⑨ The impacts of cover crops on: soil moisture levels, crop yields, providing ‘a green bridge’ for rust inoculum, plant-available nitrogen, seeding window, pests and diseases.

Course program

	Date	Time	Topics
Session One	Tuesday 14 March 2017	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Designing your cover cropping trial – selection of multi-species seed-mix for your farm, your machinery and your resource concerns.
Session Two	TBC – July 2017	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Options for terminating or harvesting the multi-species cover crop.
Session Three	TBC – November 2017	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Developing your grazing management plan to increase soil health, soil carbon, groundcover and animal performance.

Course location – TBC

The course will be held in either Benalla or Shepparton, whichever is the most central location for course participants.

Course presenters

Colin Seis farms a 2,000 acre mixed-farm on the central slopes of NSW and pioneered the regenerative agriculture practice of pasture cropping. The property runs around 4000 merino sheep, a Merino Stud, and grows around 500 acres of crops annually to oats using the ‘pasture cropping’ technique (perennial cover cropping). Colin also runs a farm consultancy business advising landholders and speaks at many workshops around Australia and internationally. In 2014 Colin won the Bob Hawke Landcare Award.

Graeme Hand farms beef cattle near Hamilton in Victoria and is the CEO of Stipa Native Grasses Association. He also runs his own consultancy business and has delivered countless workshops across Australia to cropping and grazing farmers on farm financial health checks, planned grazing and cover cropping.

*Renowned US soil expert and rancher Gabe Brown will be providing design input on the multi-species cover crops.



Soil testing

To maximise the success of your cover cropping trial, the course presenters suggest getting a Haney Soil Test on the paddock you’re planning on using for your trial, ideally before the first course session.

The Haney Test or Soil Health Test (developed by Dr Rick Haney, USA) is an integrated approach to soil testing using chemical and biological soil test data. It is designed to mimic nature’s approach to soil nutrient availability as best we can in the lab. The Haney Test is designed to work with any soil under any management scenario because the program asks simple, universally applicable questions: what is your soil’s condition; is your soil in balance; and what can you do to help your soil?

The cost of the test is \$200/sample and will need to be submitted to the laboratory by Friday 17 February 2017 to be ready for interpretation on the first day of the course. To organise the soil test contact Dr Ashley Martin, Microbiology Laboratories Australia on 0409 273 528 or email ashley@microbelabs.com.au.

If you would like further information please contact Graeme Hand on 0418 532 130 or email graemehand9@gmail.com

