

Grains Industry Sustainable Farming Practices Project Sustainable Farming Practices Data Collection Victoria



Thank you for participating.

April 2008 - V10100

This information will be used to:

- Send you an individual environmental and productivity report on your farm, with baseline data from 2001 for your shire as a comparison. We will also be providing 2005-6 data for your shire as a later comparison.
- Provide you with amalgamated data from other farms in your shire and region so you can compare your farm.
- Amalgamate all the data and then provide information on the state of agriculture's environmental stewardship and productivity to industry and the general community
- Identify where the Industry can better invest in Research and Extension to provide services and information to you and the industry.



Our aim is to simplify the process of assessing on-farm environmental effects and streamlining the reporting system. It is now accepted that many of today's farming practices are both productive and environmentally desirable. Showing the level of such practices against benchmark data, allows farmers to compare productivity and identify how the level of certain practices used on your farm compares.

There is also a need to raise the profile of farmers and the modern systems they use, in the general community, to show the extent to which they are undertaking sustainable, productive, stewardship of the land.

We also want to reduce the '**survey fatigue**' whereby numerous organisations are wanting to obtain information from farmers.

We are attempting to overcome this by providing a system where, if you are asked by another group for similar data in a survey, then you (the farmer) only need to contact us (via email, fax or post) and ask us to issue the relevant data to that group.

We hope by developing this system to alleviate the ever-increasing demands for information from farmers and streamline the system for everyone.

We are **NOT** collecting financial details; we are collecting hectares of farming practices

Your data will **only** be used, amalgamated with everyone else's, for analysis of farming practices.

Full instructions on how to fill out the form can be found on our website or fax us for an instruction sheet or more detailed information on the project,

GRDC Groundcover Reference Number.

Tick Here if you do not wish your data to be shared:

Website: www.farmingpractices.com.au
Email: admin@farmingpractices.com.au
alan@farmingpractices.com.au
Ph: 61 2 62959428
Mbl: 61 2 428 432557
Fax: 61 2 80881052
Mail: ASFPD PO Box 5564, Kingston, 2604, ACT

Australian Farming Practices – Data Collection Form

ASFPD No		Property No		NGR No	
Name:					
Email:					
Fax:					
Phone:					
Mobile:					
Address :					
Locality:					
Postcode:					
State:					

	Farm #1	Farm #2	Farm #3
1 Shire Name			
2 Name of Farm			
3 % of farm in Shire			
4 GPS - Latitude			
5 GPS - Longitude			
6 Catchment Mgt Authority (CMA)			
7. % of farm in CMA			

2. GENERAL FARM INFORMATION

2.1 Farm Records	
Do you use computer software to record your farm practise activities (Tick for yes)	
If so, which product do you use?	

2.2 Where do you obtain your agronomic advice					
(Please enter a percentage figure based on how useful this advice source is for you.)					
	Family		Internet		Agronomist – Retail
	Other Farmers		GRDC Publications		Agronomist – Private
	Groups		Media		VDPI advisors
	Other (please give details)				

2.3 Have you attended any training or workshops this year		
(Please give number of type attended and a rating – 1 = Not useful 10 = Extremely Useful)		
Type Attended	Number Attended	Rating

2.4 List any farm groups or other groups that you belong to	
(eg Farming Systems Groups or any other groups with a sustainable agricultural focus)	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

2 GENERAL FARM INFORMATION (CONT)

2.6 Name of Nearest Rainfall Station	
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2.7 Actual Rainfall Figures for this year (if not given, nearest rainfall station figures will be used)						
JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL

*	2.8 What type of farm is this?.	Tick for each one that applies (√)			
Grain				Enter details for each if 'Other' is ticked	
Cattle		Other Crops			
Sheep		Other Livestock			

OPTIONAL:

Please indicate either your actual age or tick the age range you fall into.

Age	
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Please enter the number of people in each age bracket working on the farm

2.10 Age Range					
<25	25-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	>65

How many people work on the farm	
How many families are supported by the farm	
How many people contribute off-farm income	
Estimate a % of off-farm income as contributing to the business	

Additional Comments:

If you would like to make comments or suggestions about this form, or activity, please fill in the field below:

When you have completed this section, please continue to the next page

Australian Farming Practices – Data Collection Form

<p>* 3. YEAR FOR DATA From January to December. ➡</p>	
3.1 AREAS	Hectares (Ha)
3.11 Area of Holding	
3.12 Area of Crop – Dryland	
3.13 Area of Crop - Irrigated	
3.14 Area of Pasture (improved and unimproved together) <i>See later for breakdown of pasture types</i>	

3.16 Area of Fallow –Cultivated	
3.17 Area of Pasture Spray Topped	
3.18 Area of Summer weed control – i.e. spraying for moisture or green bridge break)	
3.19 Area of Green Manure (i.e legume / other crop turned in)	
3.20 Area of Brown Manure (i.e. legume or other crop sprayed out for weed, disease or nutrient benefits)	

3.21 If Fallow, Month Commenced	
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4. CROPPING - Select the crop from the dropdown list or if it is not listed you are able to type into the box with your own details.

NB – for grains give protein, for oilseeds give percent oil

4.1 Crop Details <small>Note: where a crop type is planted over more than one month, use a separate row for each month, e.g ha of wheat in April (1 row), ha of wheat in May, use another row.</small>	Length of fallow prior to planting (Months)	Planted		Harvest		Av. Yield Tonne / Ha	Av. Grain Protein %
		Ha	Month	Ha	Month		

4.2 Date of Break of Season	
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4.3 Fuel Fuel used per year (approx) with cropping program. <i>Includes usage with Planting, Spraying, Harvesting, Grain Freight to Delivery (Used for emission calculations)</i>	Litres
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Australian Farming Practices – Data Collection Form

Areas entered: Farm Area

Crop Area

Pasture

5. TILLAGE PRACTICES		(Ha)
5.1 No Tillage	Zero Tillage (< 10% soil disturbance, e.g. disc planters)	
	No Tillage (< 30% soil disturbance, e.g. knife points)	
	Direct Drill (One pass at sowing, with full cut planting)	
5.2 Minimum Till	One or two cultivations prior to planting operation	
	Reduced Tillage (One cultivation before sowing but less soil disturbance than conventional at sowing.)	
5.3 Multiple Till	More than two cultivations prior to sowing	

5.4 Precision Agriculture.	Hectares
On how many hectares do you use Controlled Traffic / Tramlines	
On how many hectares do you use Autosteer GPS systems	
On how many hectares do you use Variable Rate technology	
How many hectares have been surveyed using EM (electro magnetic)	

6. STUBBLE PRACTICES		Hectares (Ha)
6.1 Stubble Retained	Intact at Planting – standing, no grazing	
	Not Standing (eg Grazed, Slashed, Mulched, Incorporated)	
6.2 Stubble Burnt	Cool Burn	
	Hot Burn	
	Burning of windrows for weed management	
6.3 Stubble Other	Stubble Raking / Windrow Burning – whole paddock	
	Stubble Baled	

7. FERTILISER USAGE - CROPPING Tonnes and areas of fertiliser products used.			
Fertiliser <small>Select from list or type in box if your fertiliser is not listed</small>	Type of Application <small>Eg. Pre-sowing Surface application, At Sowing, 1st Top Dressing, 2nd Top Dressing</small>	Tonnes Used	Hectares Applied To

8. FERTILISER USAGE - PASTURE Tonnes and areas of fertiliser products used.			
Fertiliser <small>Select from list or type fertiliser in box</small>	Type of Application <small>Eg. At-sowing, Top Dressing</small>	Tonnes Used	Hectares Applied To

Australian Farming Practices – Data Collection Form

Areas entered: Farm Area

Crop Area

Pasture

9. SOIL TESTING (on how many hectares and how often)	9.1: Shallow Testing (0 – 10cm)		
	Ha Tested on		Frequency
	9.2: Deep Testing (10 – 60cm) Usually nitrogen only, where soil type suitable		
	Ha Tested on		Frequency

9.3 Soil Carbon Organic carbon (%) from last soil test. (Average, if known, for your farm.)	Value (%)
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9.4 Nitrogen Usage Hectares where nitrogen is applied tactically. (eg split application, based on tissue tests).	Ha
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10. SOIL CONDITIONERS	Tonnes Used	Hectares Applied To
10.1 Lime		
10.2 Dolomite		
10.3 Gypsum		
10.4 Other		

11. SOIL CONSTRAINTS – areas of soil with constraints (subsoil or surface)

11.1 Constraint Enter other, if not listed, in spaces provided	Estimated Hectares affected

11.2 Salinity Your assessment of the amount of salt affected land on your farm	Ha
Fresh or Non Saline	
Slight - Minor - (Minimal affect on vegetation)	
Moderate - (Adverse affect on vegetation)	
High to Extreme Salinity - (NO vegetation cover present)	

Australian Farming Practices Database

Areas entered: Farm Area

Crop Area

Pasture

12. INTEGRATED WEED, PEST, DISEASE MANAGEMENT (IPM).

(It is possible that farms use many of these on the whole cropping program. If so, enter the total hectares of crop in each category that applies to you.)

12.1 Type of IPM Practiced	Ha
You may do more than one of these categories, if so you can enter the hectares (even the same amount if it is how you manage the whole crop or farm) against the categories that apply.	
Crop rotation for weed/disease/pest management	
Pest management strategy using pest/beneficial life cycle knowledge	
On how many hectares to you consider the impact on beneficial insects when selecting an insecticide	
On how many hectares do you monitor insect pressure and thresholds when determining if / when to apply insecticide.	
Rotation of chemical groups and no-chemical methods for control of weeds/pests/diseases	
Hectares where you suspect or know you have herbicide resistant weeds	
Consideration of 'edge effects' in control programs / strategies	

12.2 Grain Storage	Tonnes
What is your on farm storage capacity for grain	
How many tonnes of this is sealed grain storage.	
How many tonnes of this is aerated	

12.3 Chemical Usage and Management	
When did you most recently do farm chemical training.	Year

12.4 Selected Chemicals Used Product	Estimated Quantity Used (kg or litres)

12.5 Estimated quantity of farm chemicals stored on farm (average) during the year.(surplus to usage)		Kg/Ltr
12.6 On how many hectares do you use shielded sprayers (i.e. spraying between crop rows using shields to protect the crop plants in the rows)		Ha
12.7 On how many hectares do you use banded sprayers (i.e. spraying only over the crop row, e.g. for fungicides in some crops)		Ha
12.8 Do you participate in the DrumMuster Program (Y/N)		Y/N
12.9 Have you made use of the ChemClear Program for clearing away old chemical products (Y/N)		Y/N

12.10 Fungicide Use		
12.11 Where soil/fertilisers/seed applied and fungicide was used.	Ha	
12.12 Where foliar or post – emergent fungicides were used.	Ha	

Australian Farming Practices Database

Areas entered: Farm Area

Pasture

Native Vegetation

14. GROUND COVER	
Your assessment of quality of Ground Cover on your farm in Hectares	
14.1 Level of cover in Summer / Autumn (as at 30 March)	Ha
0 – 30% cover	
30 – 50% cover	
50 – 75% cover	
Over 75% cover	
Estimate months of the year you have soil cover over 30%	months

15. SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT	Ha
If applicable, please list Ha on your farm where you use:	
Contour banks (i.e. banks along the contour that move water to dams or drains)	
Contour farming or use of 'working lines' planting along the contour line	
Downhill tramlines	
Claying of soil to assist water infiltration and minimise runoff	
Furrow Sowing	
Other earth works or measures to minimise water erosion.	

Australian Farming Practices Database

Areas entered: Farm Area

Pasture

Native Vegetation

16. PASTURES

Enter the hectares of pasture on your farm which apply in each category.

16.1 Pastures – General	Improved Annual Pasture	Improved Perennial Pasture	Unimproved Pasture
(Hectares)			

Select from drop down and enter hectares ONLY for those that apply to you.

16.2 Pastures – including Forage Crops	Hectares

16.3 Pastures – Grazing	Hectares

17. LIVESTOCK.

	Cattle	Sheep
These questions are included to assist in calculating greenhouse gas emissions, and are estimates for the whole farm, not only the cropped areas.		
Average number of livestock carried per year.		
Estimate number of animals (all classes, ages etc) turned off.		
Estimate area that is used for grazing (Ha).		
Estimate av. Stocking rate (animals per ha on areas grazed).		