

MEDIA RELEASE

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Producers learn to cut carbon emissions in new workshops

Teaching Queensland producers how to reduce their carbon footprint to negate the cost increases expected under a carbon economy is the focus of a new series of workshops to be offered across the state from May 19.

Queensland Murray-Darling Committee regional climate change officer Rhonda Toms-Morgan said while most producers understood the carbon economy was on the way, few fully grasped the practicalities or implications.

“The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) – the implementation of which the Federal Government has just delayed until 2011 – has the potential to seriously impact on the bottom line of all primary production enterprises,” Ms Toms-Morgan said.

“While the CPRS has been delayed, now is the time for agricultural producers across the state to learn about the potential impacts of this carbon economy and to do that, the Queensland Murray-Darling Committee (trading as Swift NRM) has joined with AgForce Queensland in a project funded by the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country.”

AgForce Queensland Southern Inland Queensland regional chair Mary Crouch said it was important for people to put aside the climate change debate and focus on the potential impact of climate policy.

“Australia, like many other countries, is moving toward an emissions trading scheme (ETS) of some sort and as producers, we have to understand what that means for us,” Mrs Crouch said.

“It’s vital we understand how the CPRS will impact on agriculture – whether it is included as a covered sector or not – and how we can take action on our properties to reduce our emissions and therefore our costs.”

The first of a statewide series of workshops will start at Mitchell on May 19, Roma on May 20, Injune on May 21, Taroom on June 2, Surat on June 3, Billa Billa on June 4, Emerald on June 10, Springsure on June 11, Clermont on June 12 and Chinchilla on June 14, with more dates planned for the south-west of the state in July.

Ms Toms-Morgan said the workshops would cover the implications of the CPRS for agriculture, explain carbon science and the carbon cycle, how to measure farm emissions and carbon sequestration and Agroclim Australia’s Dr Jeff Clewett would outline both mitigation and adaptation as possible responses to climate change.

“Most importantly, producers will be given a clear idea of how energy efficiency can help the bottom line of their businesses as well as potential climate change impacts in their local area.”

This project is supported by AgForce Queensland, through funding from the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country.

For more information on the workshops, contact Rhonda Toms-Morgan on 0428 759 235 or AgForward’s Graeme Bell or Bree Robertson on 3238 6039.

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