

Lucyvale Better Beef Group Newsletter

Project Funded by *National Landcare Program*



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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Their feast our fertilizer
Their feast our future



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UPCOMING AGM

Mark your calendars today!

****PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE****

(Due to the clash with the Olympic Games Opening ceremony)

Friday 15th August

8.00pm at the Lucyvale Hall

**Followed by Supper
(Please bring a plate)**

The evening will include a sneak preview of the Dung Beetle Resource Package

Current Committee:

Chairperson: David Laverty
Vice Chair: Chips Boucher
Secretary: Sharon Roberts
Asst Secretary: Sue Josipovic
Treasurer: Grace Boucher
Gen. member: Brian Spurgeon
Gen. member: Malcolm Jarvis

Committee Vacancy

Malcolm has indicated that he will not be standing for renomination. We thank Malcolm for his contribution and will be seeking nominations from the Lucyvale landholders for committee positions.

The committee meets on the second Friday of the month at 7.30pm.

See Chips or Sharon to pick up your nomination form.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Friday 15th August

7.00pm – 8.00pm

at the Hall prior to the AGM



LUCYVALE PHOTOSTORY – DVD

Due to popular demand, we have put together a DVD that features the Lucyvale Dung Beetle Project Photo Stories “2005 – 2007” and “2008 Update” compiled by Sharon Roberts.



These will be available for purchase at the AGM for \$5.00. All proceeds will go to the Beef Group.

If you would like to pre-order a copy please let Belinda know:

☎ 02 6027 5294

✉ abanas@bigpond.com

STOCK AND LAND ARTICLE



A large article on our project featured in the July 17 edition.

Photo taken at the Field Day held on 13/6/08

WHEN WILL IT RAIN?

John Moore's forecast for August is:

1st & 2nd Rain
10th - 11th Showers tending to rain in higher areas
17th & 18th Rain
25th & 26th Showers tending to rain in higher areas
31st & 1st Rain

Rainfall for August: Average.

For more information on John's forecasts, go to www.moorelweather.com.au

JULY MONITORING RESULTS

SITE	ACTIVITY	SPECIES & TUNNEL SIZE
1	LOW	large holes
2	NIL	-
3	LOW	large holes
4	LOW	large holes
5	NIL	-
6	LOW	large holes
7	LOW	large holes
8	LOW	large holes
9	N/A	No cattle at site
10	N/A	No cattle at site

***Large holes** indicates activity by larger beetles such as: *bison* and *spiniger*.

LOW = Less than 10 beetles per dung pad, averaged over 4 pads.

Beetle activity is determined by inspecting four pads, and counting the number of tunnels found beneath the pad.

HIGHLIGHTS & OBSERVATIONS:

- There has been a marked decrease in dung beetle activity during July, with no beetle specimens found in the dung.
- Monitoring at this time last year revealed no dung beetle activity across the valley.
- Of 32 dung pads examined, 16 (50%) had dung beetle activity.
- Most pads with signs of dung beetle activity had 1 tunnel (81%), whilst 19% of pads with activity had two tunnels beneath the pad.
- Although there is a lull in activity – this is still a significant improvement on this time last year.



CATCHMENT WIDE DUNG BEETLE APPLICATION

“Do it with Dung... from the Mountains to the Murray”

An opportunity has arisen to apply for funding (Caring for Country) for a catchment-wide dung beetle education, release, trial and monitoring project. The Project application has been submitted by Kiewa Catchment Landcare Group and would involve groups from across the North East catchment and the Corowa shire.

If successful, the Project would commence in December 2008 and run for approximately 12 months, and will have 6-7 species trial sites and 100 fortnightly monitoring sites.



The North East Catchment Management area



Corowa and District Landcare area (boundary in black)