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EXPERTS: Dr Daine Allen, Mick Alexander and Dr Ram Dalal.

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Forum a first for graziers

EVEN a 30mm storm at lunchtime could not dampen the enthusiasm of the more than 35 local graziers and farmers who attended the first Healthy Soils, Healthy Pastures field day held at Adelaide Park, Yeppoon on Monday.

A severe storm provided relief to local producers, who learnt the latest science of climate change, pastures and carbon.

Host graziers Paul and Adrienne McCosker took time to explain their grazing management practices and their trials at improving pasture nutrition.

The McCoskers are using combinations of rotational grazing, liquid nutrients from Bio-Nutrient Solutions and lime to improve protein production on native and improved pastures.

Their aim is to balance the physical, nutritional and microbial requirements of the soil.

The day was organised by Capricorn Coast Landcare Group and Grazing BestPrac with support from Fitzroy Basin Association and DAFF.

Most attendees agreed the day was the first time they had been exposed to the quality of speakers and new information available, linking management to healthy soils and carbon sequestration.

For many it has signalled a change in grazing practices and a renewal in soil testing for both nutrition and microbial activity.



Some of the 35-strong crowd at the workshop. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

The key speakers on the day included GBP Qld grazing specialist Mick Alexander, DERM senior scientist on soil carbon Dr Ram Dalal and DERM senior soil carbon scientist Dr Diane Allen.

Dr Dalal and Dr Allen were funded by DAFF to promote the importance of carbon in soil health, the role of DERM in guiding major research projects into soil carbon sequestration and the effect of grazing management systems.

"We have a lot of research to do to really understand how various management systems affect carbon sequestration," Mr Dalal said. "Soils are so dynamic and changing and a certain practice may work on one soil, but not on another soil type."

Mick Alexander believed this forum had established a need to work with Dr Dalal to assess the impact of rotational grazing, managing nutrition and many other management systems.

The Team At **Boundary Nursery** would like to extend our best wishes for a *Very Happy Festive Season & may the New Year bring Health & Happiness to All.*

We are closed Wednesday 21st December

Re-Open Tuesday 27th December at 9:00am

Closed Saturday 31st December & Sunday 1st January 2012

Boundary Nursery

Greg, Tonia & Staff wish all their loyal Patrons a very **Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.**

We will close Midnight Saturday 24th Dec and re-open Boxing Day at 10am.

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