Instructions

Tip: Use this Instructions flap as a handy bookmark

Published by:
Department of Primary Industries
Geelong, Victoria, Australia
May 2010
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Authorised by:
Victorian Government
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne, Victoria
3000 Australia

Printed by:
Small Dog Design, Ballarat, Vic

ISBN: 1 74106 987 4

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Self-Assessment:

Complete the Self-Assessment Sheets. The columns to be filled in are:

Your rating
Place the rating (A-E) that best describes the situation on your property in the column headed 'Your Rating". If the issue does not apply to your property, please mark it n/a (not applicable).

Priority
Once you have rated the issue, assign a priority by determining how important it is to you to improve the rating on your farm. Mark a High, Medium or Low priority in the Priority box.

Your Goal Rating
In the box marked Your Goal Rating, place the rating (A-E) that best describes the situation that you would like to see your farm progressing towards in say the next 5-10 years. The rating should be realistic and consider the workload and cost as well as the environmental improvement achieved.

Action Required
Indicate (yes/no) whether you wish to address the issue by undertaking practice change or by making improvements to your farm.

Actions/Notes
Write your immediate "doing" thoughts here - it may be just to make a phone call or some planning notes for a larger project.

Action planning:

Complete the Action Planning Summary Sheets at the end of each section to record any actions here that come immediately to mind. You can then rank the actions from all sections later and develop an annual action plan.

Deciding on priority actions:
What are your goals for the farm?
What can be achieved?

Consider any risks involved in the current situation and the benefits possible:
- Legal requirements
- Environmental implications- farm and catchment.
- Financial implications- costs/benefits, capital value.
- People implications- safety, labour, time.

Where possible, work on the cause as well as the symptom.
e.g. fence and repair a saline gully- but also consider trees, perennial grasses or altering grazing management to address the groundwater balance.

Consider both short-term and long-term projects. The size of actions can vary greatly. For larger jobs, it's a good idea to list incremental, achievable steps in your action plan with an estimate of the time frames required.

Consider new practices. Researching or trialing a practice is a useful action.

Documenting one action may cover a number of topics in the workbook.

Build monitoring and recording into all actions. These records will help to tell a story of environmental improvement. Remember that your starting point is not as important as identifying whether the changes that you have implemented are having the desired effect, or that they need altering.

Useful ideas can come from visiting other properties. Discussing aspects of action plan with neighbours can open up opportunities for cost sharing. Linking corridors, sharing fencing costs, applying for grants or taking joint action on weeds or foxes can be achieved by thinking outside the boundary fence.

Example goals and suggestions for monitoring changes are provided on the reverse side of the action planning sheets.