

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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LAUNCH OF DUNG BEETLE RESOURCE PACKAGE

The Lucyvale Dung Beetle Resource Package is almost complete. The aim has been to compile a resource that will:

- outline the agricultural and environmental benefits provided by dung beetles
- provide practical tips on how to establish a community-based dung beetle project
- bring together the diverse range of information and resources developed by past and current dung beetle projects
- enable new projects to build upon the considerable knowledge base, ensuring that future investments are used to their maximum advantage and duplication is avoided
- stimulate interest in dung beetles
- highlight future challenges and opportunities.

One thousand copies will be produced and distributed free of charge to groups and landholders with an interest in dung beetles. Key information will also be included on the National dung beetle web site: www.dungbeetle.com.au.

The package has a number of components and includes printed information, DVD, resource CD and a dung beetle identification guide. The identification guide has been supplied courtesy of the "Dung beetles for Landcare farming" project (supported by the Orica foundation).

COME AND CELEBRATE



You're invited to come and celebrate the official launch on

**Friday 31st
October
5.00pm at the
Lucyvale Hall**

**Followed by a
light meal
(please bring a
plate of finger
food)**

**and Lucyvale
Happy Hour**

We will have a number of special guests including Darren Williams (State Landcare and Industry Co-ordinator – Victoria) and Pam Wilson.

Pam has a wealth of experience when it comes to dung beetles. She was the co-ordinator of the Dung Beetle Express Project between 2000 and 2008 and oversaw the distribution of over 250,000 beetles in northern NSW and south-eastern Queensland.

In 2005 she travelled to south Africa and conducted research into dung beetles and grazing activities in natural and transformed environments. Pam is also a member of the Dung Beetles for Landcare Farming committee which has recently produced the dung beetle dictionary. We are delighted that Pam has accepted our invitation to launch the package.

HELPING HANDS NEEDED

There will be a working bee to put together the resource package.

Wednesday 29th October
1.00pm – 4.00pm
at the Lucyvale Hall

Pages and dividers need to be inserted into the binder, as well as the CD, DVD and dung beetle dictionary. If you could spare an hour or two, your help will make a big job much easier. There will be plenty to do!

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING



Wednesday 29th October
4.00pm – 5.00pm
at the Hall

BUSH TELEGRAPH INTERVIEW



In August the Lucyvale Dung Beetle Project was featured on the ABC Nationwide radio show, “*Bush Telegraph*”. Chips along with Dr Bernard Doube and Associate Professor Ian Dadour had the opportunity to promote dung beetles and highlight that there is still much to be done.

WHEN WILL IT RAIN?

John Moore’s forecast for *September* was

1st & 2nd Rain
8th & 9th Rain
15th & 16th Rain
29th & 30th Showers tending to rain in higher areas

Rainfall for September: Average

John’s forecast for *October* is:

5th to 7th Rain
17th & 18th Rain
22nd & 23rd Showers tending to rain in higher areas
30th & 31st Rain

Rainfall for October: Average to above average

For more information on John’s forecasts, go to www.mooresrweather.com.au

AUGUST MONITORING RESULTS

SITE	ACTIVITY	SPECIES & TUNNEL SIZE
1	LOW	1 <i>Bubas bison</i> 3 <i>Onthophagus australis</i> Large and small holes
2	LOW	Small holes
3	N/A	No dung at site
4	LOW	1 <i>Onthophagus australis</i> Large and small holes
5	LOW	1 <i>Bubas bison</i> Large and small holes
6	LOW	1 <i>Bubas bison</i> Large holes
7	LOW	1 <i>Onthophagus australis</i> Large and small holes
8	LOW	1 <i>Onthophagus australis</i> Small holes
9	LOW	Small holes (stock reserve)
10	LOW	Small holes

***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:

- the emergence of the native species *Onthophagus australis* across the valley. Of the 36 dung pads inspected, 26 had small holes present.

- the recovery of *Bubas bison* beetles at three monitoring sites. Of the 36 dung pads inspected, 15 had large holes present.

- of the 36 pads inspected, all had low levels of dung beetle activity. Six pads had both large and small holes present.