



## **Two new Producer Demonstration Sites aim to inform about variable rate in pasture systems.**

Precision Agriculture is pleased to announce our involvement in two Producer Demonstration Site projects, funded by Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), that are investigating the economic benefits of variable rate applications (VRA) and soil mapping in pasture systems.

Both projects are producer-led and involve paddock demonstrations across multiple farmers properties in Victoria and South Australia.

“Precision Soil Mapping in Central Victorian Pastures” is a collaboration with the Smeaton and Pyrenees BestWool BestLamb groups and Agriculture Victoria, who are providing group facilitation and economic expertise to the project. This project is focused on smaller permanent pasture paddocks and is taking an intensive approach to monitoring across four demonstration sites.

“Precision Soil Management for Pasture Productivity” involves ten core growers from South Australia and Western Victoria, centred on Mount Gambier. As well as PA’s

involvement, growers are supported by Compass Agribusiness' expertise in financial analysis and agronomic guidance from Incitec Pivot. This project involves approximately 1000ha of paddocks across ten properties, trading less intensive monitoring for greater scale and replicability.

The demonstration projects involve a comparison of paddocks that receive variable rate fertiliser and ameliorants with similar paddocks that receive more conventional treatment. These treatments are based on a grid soil mapping approach that identifies the variability in soil conditions within each paddock.

"Variable Rate and grid sampling is well known and adopted in cropping systems but the economic benefits in pasture systems are less understood," says Sebastian Ie from Precision Agriculture.

"These projects are a great opportunity to answer producers' questions and provide some hard numbers around cost/benefit decision making," commented Mr. Ie.

Initial soil sampling was completed over summer and identified a range of potential targets for VRA in each paddock. Spreading is underway and producers will be undertaking a range of monitoring activities to measure the impact that it has on pasture growth and financial performance.

The first field days and other events have been held for the growers involved in each project, but future events will be open to the public to learn about project progress and develop related skills in soil test interpretation and pasture assessment.

**For more information please contact:**

**Sebastian Ie**

**0476 849 665**

PRECISION AGRICULTURE, Greenhill Enterprise Centre, Ballarat Technology Park, Mt Helen,  
VIC 3350, 1800773247

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)