



SMARTchoice

TAFCO
RURAL SUPPLIES

ABOUT TAFCO

The Tobacco & Associated Farmers Co-operative Limited (TAFCO) was formed in 1987 by tobacco growers to operate as an agricultural merchandising business to service tobacco growers and other primary producers.

Being a co-operative, profits are retained in the local communities and equitably distributed amongst members.

TAFCO has a broad horticultural base of 500 farmers throughout the Ovens, King, Kiewa and Beechworth areas - many operating multi-commodity farming enterprises. Over 600,000 \$1.00 shares are held by members.

See our website for details on becoming a member.

DISCLAIMER

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MYRTLEFORD
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FREE WORKSHOP INVITATION

Making the most out of your manures and organic waste
Wednesday 17th March— 10.00a.m—4.00pm
Myrtleford Savoy Sporting Club

Since the closure of the tobacco industry agricultural life has been different and difficult for affected landowners. The **SMARTchoice** project has had a funded role to provide support relating to land use change. As part of this the project has been involved with activities on soil and crop management, water use efficiency and quality assurance.

One thing that project staff and other agronomy specialists in the area have encountered with 'new' crops is that quite often pronounced changes to soil conditions are required. These changes normally relate to crop nutrition programs and soil amendments such as lime or gypsum. However, we have also been asked a number of times to locate information regarding other soil amendments such as manures and organic wastes. This general field often generates considerable interest from land managers who want to improve their soil's condition or who have an interest in other soil management philosophies. However, it is also a field where you really need to be aware of the broader implications. The workshop advertised over the page and organised by the VIC Department of Primary Industries in partnership with the **SMARTchoice** project, local Landcare groups and councils may therefore be a very useful opportunity for individuals to improve their knowledge on the role of manures and organic wastes in modern agricultural systems.

The key speaker will be Dr Christopher Dorahy. From 2004-2008 he worked with the NSW Department of Primary Industries Centre for Recycled Organics. In that role he was responsible for managing and coordinating research activities in the use of composts and manures. He has written and co-authored several journal articles and conference papers relating to composts and organic wastes. The **SMARTchoice** project is happy to be involved with the day because the workshop fits nicely into our soil management brief. The day will include presentations on:

- Characteristics of organic wastes and manures*
- Potential benefits of organic wastes and manures*
- Possible risks of organic wastes and manures*

The content of the day will be relevant to agricultural (and horticultural) enterprises. You will note from the flyer over the page that the RSVP is 11 March. Kristy Youman, from VIC DPI, has agreed to extend the RSVP for the Myrtleford meeting until Monday March 15. You can ring Kristy on 0260437968 to RSVP or to seek further detail on the day. (Alternatively you can contact Gary Baxter at TAFCO on 57521800).

Regards

Gary Baxter/Kerry Murphy
(On behalf of the **SMARTchoice** project)



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

Primary Producer Proud

Making the Most Out of Your Manures and Organic Wastes



As fertiliser prices increase are you looking at alternative inputs for your grazing?

Do you have organic wastes, manures or grape marc?

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) in partnership with local Landcare groups and councils are encouraging North East farmers and farming advisers to attend one of the free workshops on alternative fertilising methods in March.

The interactive workshops will examine the characteristics, potential benefits and possible risks of manures, grape marc, biosolids, and organic wastes. Farmers and their advisers will leave with the necessary tools for assessing alternative fertilisers and soil conditioners and determining how to integrate them into their farming systems based on soil fertility status, crop nutrient requirements and likely return on investment.

An overview of the principles of whole farm planning will be discussed and how participants can tie in the key learnings from the day into their whole farm plan. These workshops are free to all participants. Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea will be provided.

Come along to a **FREE** workshop in your region from 10:00am - 4:00pm at the following locations:

Tuesday 16th March
Kiewa Bowls Club

Wednesday 17th March
Savoy Club Myrtleford

Thursday 18th March
Senior Citizens Hall Rutherglen

For further information and to register please **RSVP** by **Thursday 11th March** to:

Kristy Youman
Department of Primary Industries
02 6043 7968 or
kristy.youman@dpi.vic.gov.au