Landcare-led Landscape Resilience

Tools and data for restoration decisions

Whole paddock restoration - electric fencing

OBJECTIVES

Re-establishing paddock trees for connectivity for woodland birds and Squirrel gliders while maintaining some production

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

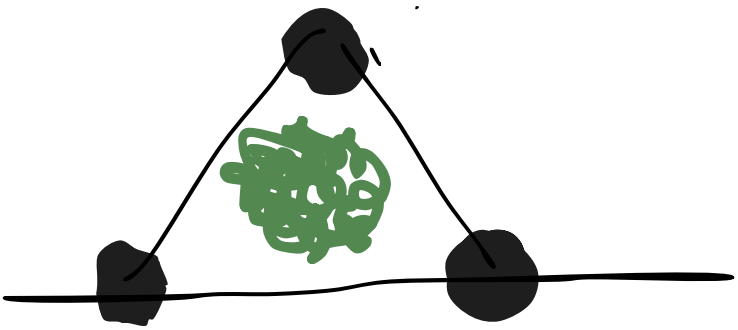
On small farms, there are often a lot of small paddocks and intensive grazing trying to coexist with biodiversity values . This landholder has come up with an innovative way to get trees re-established in this situation using electric fencing along swales for improved land management and tree planting success.



Swales help to slow run off and get more infiltration. They reduce erosion and the higher soil moisture results in more grass and groundcover



This is a whole paddock set up into strip grazing with three electric wires, and offset star posts with a tree planted and the electric wire protecting the tree



Tree is planted in a triangle of star pickets running three electric wires. The trees are planted about 30 m apart

RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

- 2 or 3 electric wires - suitable for cattle but not adequate for sheep or if vegetation overgrowth likely.
- 4 (or more) electric wires - Suitable for cattle & sheep but may not be suitable for lambs or if vegetation overgrowth likely.
- 2 electric wires plus mesh at base - Effective against most stock including lambs but can be costly.



A LOCAL NETWORK OF DEMONSTRATION SITES ARE BEING ESTABLISHED UTILISING 'BEST PRACTICE' RESTORATION AND REVEGETATION TECHNIQUES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE. THIS IS SHOWCASING OF THE POSITIVE ECONOMIC, PRODUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF NATIVE VEGETATION RESTORATION, AND THE POTENTIAL FOR INCOME STREAMS FOR BUSINESS RESILIENCE.

Body

KEY LEARNINGS FROM EXPERIENCE

- With no sheep, the electric wire can keep the cattle away from the trees and still allow them to graze under the wire. Sheep can be re-introduced when the trees no longer need protection.

- We attempted this, using shipping pallets as tree guards, but they proved great for small seedlings and sheep. However, as the trees grew above the pallet, they were prone to browsing by the cattle, and the cattle pushed them around.

COST CONSIDERATIONS

Average cost/Km (plus cost of energiser: mains power, battery or solar available.

- 2 or 3 electric wires - $500-700
- 4 (or more) electric wires - $650+
- 2 electric wires with mesh at base - $1000 to $2000

FOR MORE ON THIS VISIT HTTPS://EAGLERISEFARM.COM.AU/REVEGETATION-BIODIVERSITY-AT-EAGLERISE-FARM

www.revegetation.org.au

Australian Government | Future Drought Fund | Murrumbidgee Landcare Incorporated | Holbrook Landcare Network