



Our country, Our future.



A NATURAL SOLUTION

Organic farmers spread word on NSF

Understanding and working with natural processes comes with the territory for organic beef and pastured, organic pork producers, Peter and Lisa Wippell.

Discovering Natural Sequence Farming

Peter and Lisa Wippell live with their five children on *Nioka*, a 2003 hectare property between Biloela and Monto.

The Wippells have been implementing Natural Sequence Farming (NSF) principles since 2009 on *Nioka* in an attempt to rehydrate the landscape.

“We noticed the number of old gum trees along our creek that were dying, despite the creek having a good run every couple of years. The storm water was running off and the land was dry again within days,” Peter said.

Looking for a way to rectify the problem, he found a book by Peter Andrews, pioneer of the NSF approach. Shortly afterwards Peter was able to join a trip organised by his local Landcare group to visit several properties rehabilitated by Mr Andrews.

A holistic approach

He started incorporating NSF on his property in 2009, the same year the business became certified organic, further reinforcing the Wippells’ focus on holistic property management.

“When we took over management, we stopped clearing re-growth and allowed it to grow for nature reserves encouraging biodiversity of plants and animals, and have practiced rotational grazing since and are now looking at going to a lot higher density,” Peter said.

They also erected riparian fencing on *Nioka* to exclude stock and allow natural regeneration of creeks to occur, which they believe is essential for slowing down the passage of water, allowing the land to rehydrate, and for sediments and nutrients to be removed from the water.

Sharing knowledge

Peter and Lisa are now giving others the chance to discover NSF by sharing their knowledge through FBA’s Natural

Sequence Farming project funded under the Australian Government’s Caring for our Country.

They hosted two workshops in the Fitzroy Basin on applying NSF principles facilitated by Tarwyn Park Training.

“We think it is essential for the landscape that as many people as possible adopt the NSF principles,” Peter said.

Participants learnt about the water cycle in the Australian landscape and ways to reinstate natural functions through the use of plants and in some cases earthworks, and many left the events with greater confidence about applying NSF.

Inspiring a better future

“One person commented that now they know it can be done, they were encouraged to go home and try it,” Peter said.

The Wippell’s continue to advocate for NSF locally as they work towards their vision for *Nioka* – a landscape fully re-hydrated with healthy creeks and soils, a functioning carbon cycle and good biodiversity.

“There is a saying I believe in - you don’t own the land, you are borrowing it from your children. As a father of five I really want to pass it on in a better state than I found it,” Peter said.

