

**National Association of Agricultural Educators Conference
Field Tours
7-11 January 2017**

**Field Tour site visit proposal
AGROFORESTRY - Cressy, Tasmania**

**Proposed itinerary for incorporation of Agroforestry into the
Midlands tour**

Proposed timing for site visit: 1-1.5 hours

Proposed location: Formosa Estate, just outside of Cressy, Tasmania (20-30 minutes from Launceston).

Proposed presenters/hosts:

- John Heard, farmer/property owner;
- Martin Moroni, Private Forests Tasmania;
- Tony O'Grady, CSIRO
- Mark Hunt, University of Tasmania,
- Beth Welden, ForestLearning Education;
- Darcy Vickers, Forest Education Foundation.

Background

Many teachers of agricultural science have access to either a school farm or partner with farmers in their local region. Agroforestry is a great example of farm diversification that is being increasingly scientifically shown to be of great benefit to farmers through improved pasture growth and yield due to positive changes in the microclimates they create, increased environmental outcomes and farm profitability.

Why visit Formosa Estate, Cressy in Tasmania for NAAE conference tour?

Private Forests Tasmania, in collaboration with CSIRO and the University of Tasmania, leads an Agroforestry program that has been conducting field trials on this farming property. They have collaboratively established a field experimental site with Radiata pines seven rows wide that act as a wind break. They have set up cages to monitor weather at various distances from the plantation site to quantifiably demonstrate the benefits of trees in agricultural landscapes. It is hoped that this will inspire

private land holders, and teachers of agriculture and agricultural science, to realise the benefits of Agroforestry in a farming system.

What are the benefits of Agroforestry on farms?

Trees grown on farmland provide a range of benefits and values to landowners and the community. Well planned tree plantings can increase farm profits by improving crop and animal growth and providing additional income from wood sales. Trees on farms also provide environmental and social benefits that often extend beyond farm boundaries.

An overview and background research of other styles of agroforestry will be explored such as the establishment of, and/or management of existing, native trees on farming land.

What will teachers be able to see and experience during a 1-1.5 hour visit to Formosa Estate?

- A real world agricultural science field trial experiment and breakthrough science that will give insight into this new emerging agroforestry industry around Australia;
- Allow teachers to understand how they could incorporate similar field trials and agroforestry plots on their school farms for real world learning in their classrooms about systems, microclimates, pasture science and more;
- Meet the science team behind the research and hear the data analysis done to date. This data has shown for example that pasture nearer to the shelter zone:
 - an increase in 15% pasture yield
 - Pasture has been shown to grow faster
 - Improved animal weight gains
 - Diversification of the agricultural system with added benefits of commercial tree harvesting as well.
- See and learn more about the scientific equipment installations used for the trial.
- Establish industry networks for their own regions throughout Australia.