Dung beetle workshop for Tweed farmers and producers



Date: Thursday 16 March 2023

Time: 9 am to 2 pm

Location: Stokers Siding-Dunbible Memorial Hall, 244 Stokers Rd, Stokers Siding

Information:

Dung beetles play an important role in livestock systems by recycling nutrients, reducing habitat for parasites and improving soil health.

Tweed producers and farmers are invited to a workshop presented by Ecoinsects and Tweed Shire Council, to help identify dung beetle species common to the region (and those missing). The workshop is being delivered as part of a larger project to build drought resilient beef and dairy farms in the Tweed.

The workshop will discuss the lifecycles of these critical beneficial insects and provide advice on how best to manage them.

Workshop agenda:

- The role of native and introduced dung beetles.
- Understanding and valuing their ecosystem and services.
- The species, the time slots and the roles for your region.
- The role of dung beetles in animal health and the challenges of pesticide use.
- On-farm dung beetle planning and strategy (how to ensure you have the species you need and keep them).
- · Update on Council's Shire-wide dung beetle survey.
- · Guidance on sampling and identifying dung beetles.

Speakers:



Rob Young from Ecoinsects

Rob had early connections to the CSIRO dung beetle introduction programs in the 1990s and has now incorporated the knowledge into his grazing consultancy work. Rob currently works on a range of research and development projects with Ecoinsects to improve pasture and livestock health.



Paul Meibusch from Ecoinsects

Paul founded Ecoinsects to extend the knowledge and experience gained in the MLA funded Dung Beetle Program. While a recent convert to the ranks of passionate dung beetle supporters, he remembers a childhood of flies (pre the release of introduced dung beetles).



Further information:

Contact the program leader – sustainable agriculture Eli Szandala at Tweed Shire Council on 02 6670 2400. Lunch and refreshments provided. Registering is essential at <u>dung-beetle-workshop.eventbrite.com.au</u>





Beneficial insects for productive agriculture

