

Event Report - Increasing brown carbon sequestration on-farm and earning carbon credits

NRKI, AGKI and PIRSA held an information session on the importance of soil carbon in primary production systems and how to take advantage of existing opportunities under the Australian Government's Carbon Farming Initiative and Emissions Reduction Fund for earning brown carbon credits by sequestering soil carbon in grazing systems.

Fifteen local farmers attended the session held on Monday 4 February at the Parndana Bowling Club. Some really valuable information was presented and survey results showed a significant increase in understanding of many areas related to organic soil carbon and the potential of the Carbon Farming Initiative on KI.

The session kicked off with Dr Amanda Schapel (PIRSA) giving a presentation on the importance of soil carbon in production systems and what drives it. Survey results showed that the general understanding of soil carbon increased for participants, with 12 out of the 14 land managers indicating a higher level of understanding after the presentations. It must be said that most participants valued the importance of soil carbon highly at the beginning of the night and the talks certainly validated and enhanced those thoughts.

The second presentation was given by Dr Tim Wiley (Tierra Australia Pty Ltd), he explained how the Carbon Farming Initiative, Emissions Reduction Fund and associated methodologies for brown carbon work. Dr Wiley outlined what was required to get a project registered, roles and responsibilities, earnings and payments, timelines, etc. Again this was very valuable for participants who indicated they improved their knowledge considerably in this area. The survey results showed 12 out of 14 attendees improved their knowledge of the carbon credits system, many with suggesting significant improvement and importantly there was significant improvement in knowledge of 'Eligible Management Activities'. Although many attendees indicated they were less likely to join the soil carbon credit scheme after the presentations this is largely due to a better understanding of the process and to the current levels of soil carbon that exist on KI. With most attendees indicating they need more information of current soil carbon levels and what the potential capacity is for the different soil types on the Island. The Comments section showed that some of the rules around the discount and deferral of payments are significant hurdles to uptake for some KI farmers.

Tim spent two days visiting several properties on KI to look at the practical feasibility of implementing a brown carbon scheme on KI. Thanks to the farmers who hosted these visits as they provided a great opportunity for Tim to become more familiar with our farming systems and soils. Paddocks that had either been clay spread and or had perennial pastures sown showed visually an increase in soil carbon, highlighting the potential opportunity to increase soil carbon levels. Whether we can increase levels enough to warrant the cost and time to become involved in the scheme is still to be determined.

The survey results showed that the presentations were valuable in improving knowledge in many areas. Significant increases in understanding of Organic Carbon (Q1), The Carbon credit System (Q5) and 'Eligible Management Activities' (Q6). Two negative results in terms of rating scores for Q7 relating to the contribution farming makes to total global human induced emissions and Q11 expectations for increasing Gross margin of paddocks were also positive. It shows a clearer understanding of the actual contribution to global emissions and a lowering of expectations with regard the earning potential of the carbon credit scheme to better fit with what is likely to be achieved.

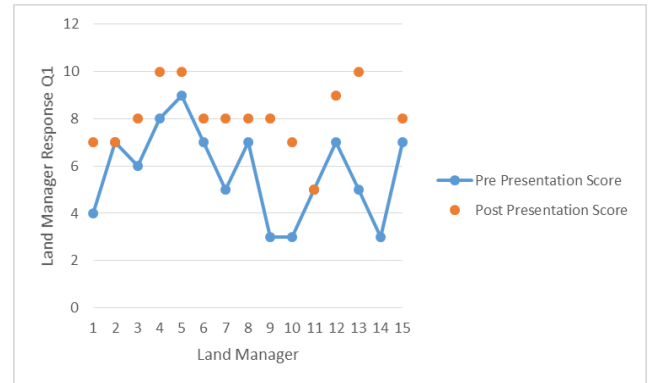
A PDF Version of both PowerPoint presentations is available on the NRKI website

https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/kangarooisland/land-and-water/Future_Proofing_Agriculture_on_Kangaroo_Island_Project

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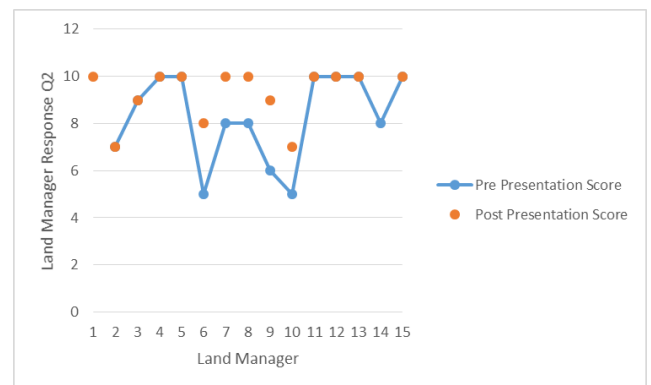
Q1. What would you say your current understanding of the Organic carbon is? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	5.73
Post Presentation Mean Scores	8.07
Change in Mean Scores	2.34



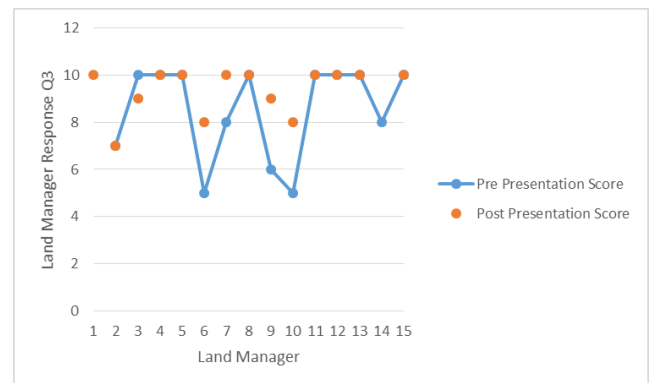
Q2. How important would you say Organic Carbon (OC) is for plant productivity? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	8.29
Post Presentation Mean Scores	9.29
Change in Mean Scores	1.00



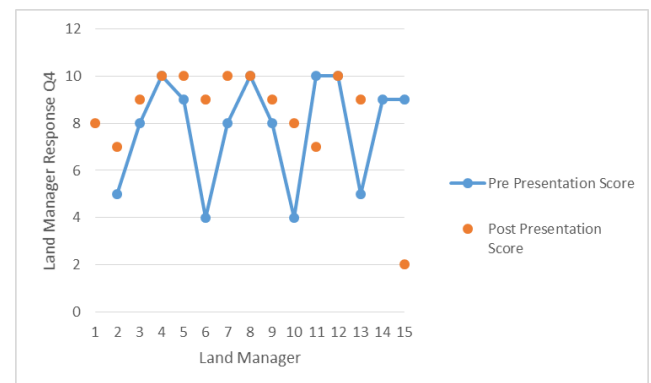
Q3. How important would you say Organic Carbon (OC) is for soil health? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	8.50
Post Presentation Mean Scores	9.36
Change in Mean Scores	0.86



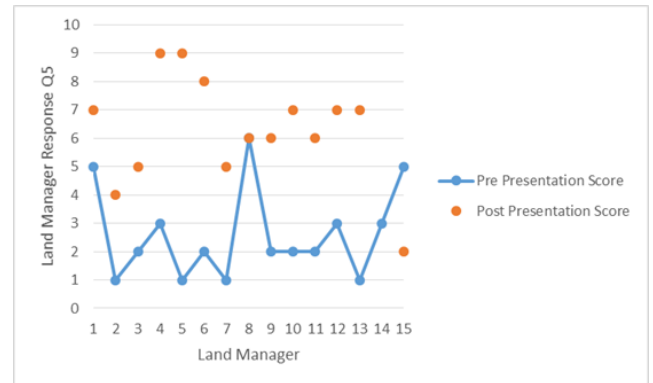
Q4. How important would you say Organic Carbon (OC) is for offsetting greenhouse gases? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	7.79
Post Presentation Mean Scores	8.43
Change in Mean Scores	0.64



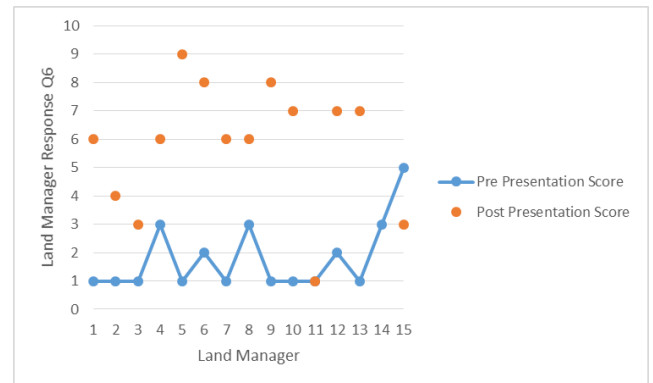
Q5. What would you say your current understanding of the carbon credits system is? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	2.60
Post Presentation Mean Scores	6.29
Change in Mean Scores	3.69



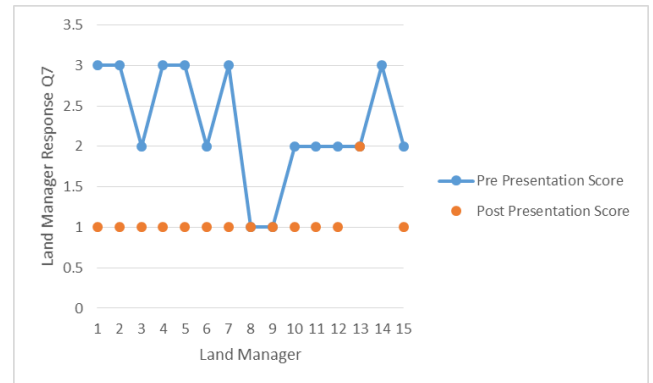
What would you say your current understanding of the 'Eligible Management Activities' for carbon credits system are? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	1.80
Post Presentation Mean Scores	5.79
Change in Mean Scores	3.99



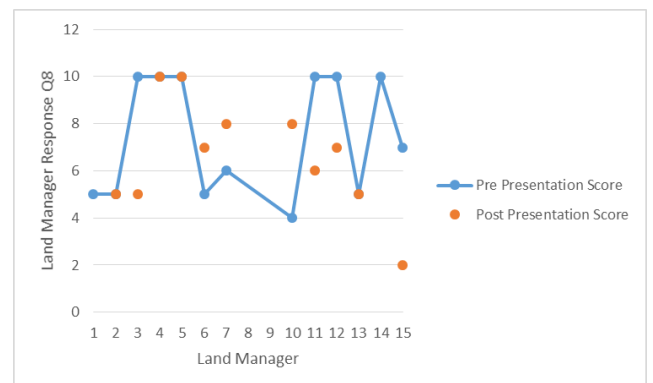
What percentage of global emissions do you think farming activity contributes? 1-4 percentage value A11%, B17%, C25%, D54%

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	2.27
Post Presentation Mean Scores	1.07
Change in Mean Scores	-1.20



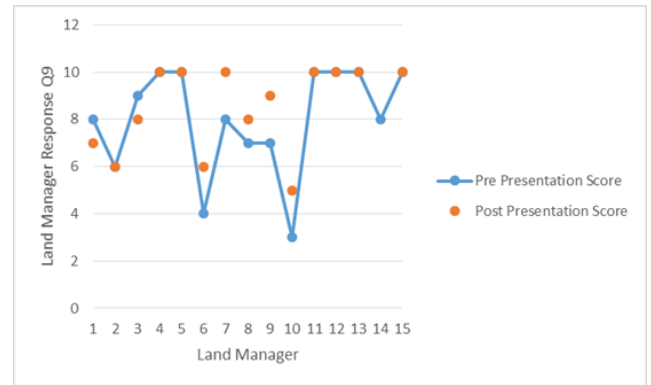
How suitable do you think your soil type is for carbon sequestration? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	7.46
Post Presentation Mean Scores	6.64
Change in Mean Scores	-0.83



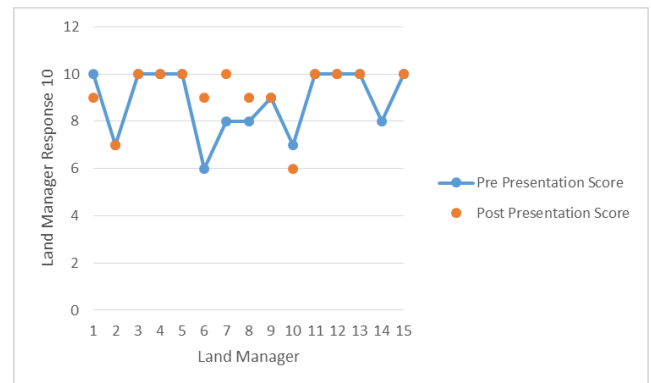
How important do you think managing soil carbon is in current farming management? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	8.00
Post Presentation Mean Scores	8.50
Change in Mean Scores	0.50



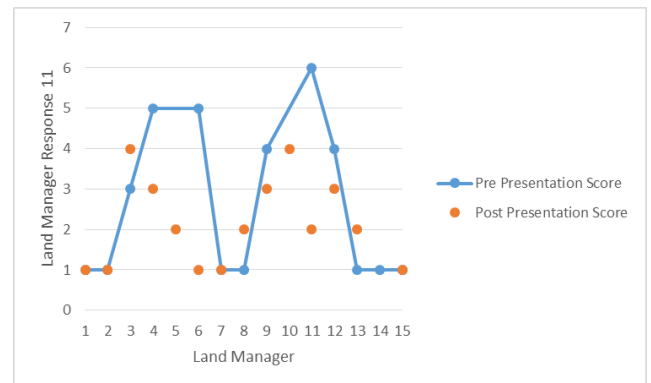
How important do you think managing soil carbon will be in future farming management? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	8.87
Post Presentation Mean Scores	9.21
Change in Mean Scores	0.35



In terms of Gross margin of a paddock, what percentage increase would you expect from a carbon credit system? 1-7 percentage range 0-5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-20, 20-25, 25-30, >30

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	2.62
Post Presentation Mean Scores	2.14
Change in Mean Scores	-0.47



How likely are you to consider joining a carbon credit scheme? 1-10

Pre Presentation Mean Scores	5.58
Post Presentation Mean Scores	3.50
Change in Mean Scores	-2.08

