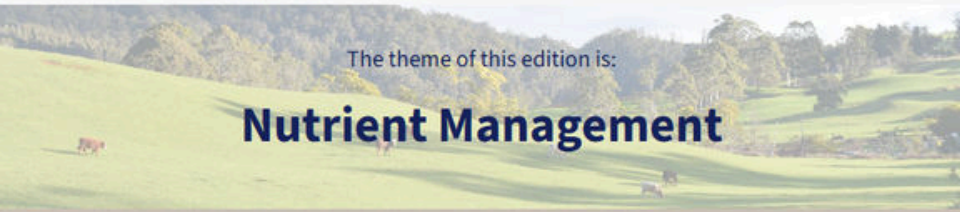


*Practical information, resources and opportunities for
north-west Tasmanian farmers and agricultural service providers.*

**Welcome to the August 2026 edition of *Our Natural Advantage*,
Cradle Coast NRM's monthly climate-smart farming snapshot.**



The theme of this edition is:

Nutrient Management

Good nutrient management is important for both environmental health and productivity on every farm.

Nutrient management involves considering a variety of factors to make the most of every nutrient application and reduce losses. It includes practices such as soil testing, maintaining ground cover, establishing buffer zones, effluent management, and more.

Effective nutrient management saves you money! Nutrient management also ensures excess nutrients, such as nitrogen, aren't released into the environment in harmful ways. Nitrogen runoff can cause waterway pollution and lead to algal blooms downstream, while volatilisation of nitrogen fertilisers means nitrogen becomes a gas and is released into the atmosphere.

Economically, poor nutrient management can represent a direct loss of applied fertilizer, diminishing its availability for crop uptake.

It's worth ensuring best practice nutrient management is used both for the environment and for your wallet.

Keep nutrients where they should be – in your paddock!

The new [Voluntary Code of Practice for Nutrient Management](#) by TasFarmers promotes efficient nutrient use and protection of waterways and soil health.

The code contains five pillars, with each providing a description of key best practice management actions and a checklist for land managers. The pillars are:

- **Soil:** Best practice management involves knowing your soil type, conducting regular soil testing, visually assessing your soil, maintain ground coverage, and working within limitations and your land capability. Key checklist points include identifying productivity limitations, matching irrigation rates to your soil, and tracking soil nutrients long-term. Check out this useful [Soil Test Interpretation Guide](#).
- **Environment:** Familiarise yourself with your landscape and environmental risks, implementing buffer zones, riparian revegetation, excluding stock from waterways and managing irrigation and drainage. Minimise manure entering waterways, monitor on-farm water quality, and avoid using fertilisers around drains and key runoff areas.

- **Fertiliser:** Routinely revisit your nutrient budget and keep the 4R's in mind whenever applying fertiliser (see below for more information on the 4R's). Ensure organic sources like effluent and compost are included in your nutrient budget, be mindful of storing organics and unused fertilisers correctly to prevent leaching, and manage areas of high nutrient loading such as laneways, gateways and water troughs.
- **Effluent:** As an 'unbalanced' source of nutrients, match rate of effluent application to the application rate of the most concentrated nutrient. For example, if potassium (K) is the most abundant nutrient in your effluent, keep the overall effluent application rate below the recommended maximum for K, even if this means other nutrients like P and N are lower than their recommended rate. Ensure all effluent reuse meets biosecurity recommendations and follows relevant regulations such as the Effluent Management Code of Practice.
- **Planning and Management:** Behind the scenes, ensure best practice nutrient management is upheld by maintaining thorough recordkeeping, training staff, and evaluating how well your current nutrient management practices are working.



Image: Manage nutrients around drains - monitor soil compaction, exclude stock where appropriate and consider where nutrients are applied surrounding drains.

There are also a variety of other ways to manage nutrients, such as implementing multi-species pastures or multi-species cover crops, utilising foliar bio-stimulants, microbial inoculants or dissolved nutrients, or using biological inputs like compost, seaweed products, and fish waste or molasses derived products.

Check out this valuable resource on how soil biology can support farm productivity: [Soils Alive! Understanding and managing soil biology on Tasmanian Farms](#)

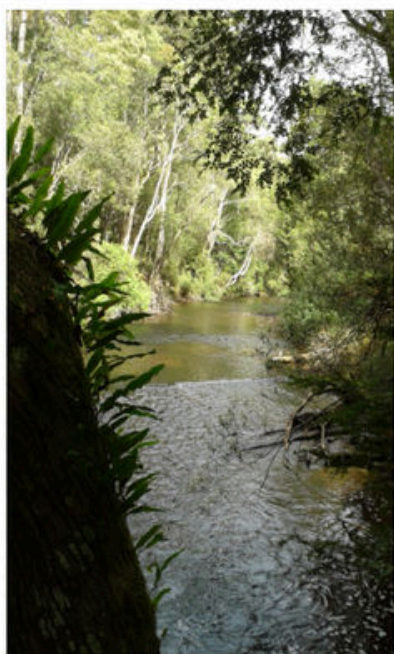
To reduce environmental nutrient loss, manage any active erosion, protect existing on-farm vegetation, and consider improving vegetation around waterways, drains and dams. Limit stock access to waterways and plan vegetation to allow for both shade in summer and sun in winter to help maintain optimal soil moisture, reducing nitrogen loss through volatilisation.

If you are using traditional fertiliser products, always remember the 4R's:

- **Right source:** Choose a fertiliser type that matches your nutrient requirements and soil type, considering both natural and synthetic sources.
- **Right rate:** Calculate application rates based on soil testing, expected yield and plant demand rather than guessing or using the same application rate every year.
- **Right Time:** Schedule application of nutrients around plant growth and consider weather conditions to reduce runoff and volatilisation.
- **Right Place:** Ensure fertiliser is applied both to the right places on your farm and to the right place for your plant (foliar vs soil application).



Image: Nutrient loading can become high around areas stock congregate, such as water troughs.



Resources

Voluntary Code of Practice for Nutrient Management by TasFarmers: Get in-depth information on best practice actions and complete the checklists for your farm. Access the Code [here](#).

Fertiliser use and management resource hub by the University of Tasmania: Access information on nutrient management filtered by industry - from cherries and potatoes through to red meat and dairy. Visit the webpage [here](#).

Key resources on the webpage include:

- [Optimising Perennial Pasture Legumes](#)
- [Video: Nitrogen Use Efficiency in Dairy Systems](#)
- [Dairy HIGH2 farmlet results](#)
- [Excel: Nitrogen in soil and organic matter calculator](#)

A systems approach to nitrogen management by GDRC: Learn more about nitrogen cycling and maintaining optimal soil nitrogen in cropping systems [here](#).

Soils for Life Podcast: Each episode discusses a new theme with an industry expert. Listen in on Spotify, Apple Podcasts or YouTube. Find out more [here](#).

Soil Test Interpretation Guide for Dryland Pastures in Tasmania by Naomi Palombi, Doris Blaesing: Learn to understand soil chemical analysis through this [guidebook](#).

Soils Alive! Learn to understand and manage on-farm soil biology [here](#).

Events

Webinar: August Seasonal Update

Hosted by: Ag Logic & TAS Farm Innovation
Hub - this month's topic is irrigation planning
Date: 7 August, 1:00PM to 1:45PM
Location: Online webinar
[Register here](#)

FarmX

Hosted by: Tas Farmers
Date: 20 August 2026, 8:00am - 5:30pm
Location: Deloraine Showgrounds
[Purchase tickets here](#)

Australasian Dairy Science Symposium

Date: 24-26 November 2026
Location: Devonport, Tasmania
Save the date - registrations coming soon.

Opportunities

Soil Health Training and Discussion Group for Dairy Farmers - Expressions of Interest

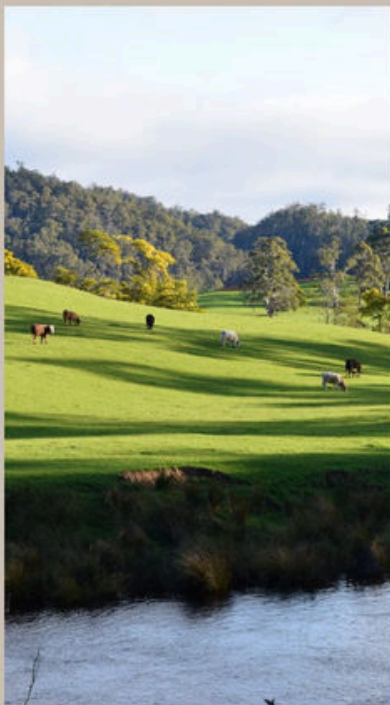
EOI's are now open for this new program by
Soils for Life and Cradle Coast NRM,
delivering training, consultant support and
subsidised plant and soil testing to
participants.
[Submit your EOI here.](#)

Farm Business Resilience Program 2 - Expressions of Interest now open!

This popular program has been extended.
Visit the NRE Tasmania [website](#) to express
your interest in participating.

Emerge: Supporting Farmer Led Groups

Are you looking to start, grow or reconnect a
farmer group? This new program could
support you!
Hosted by: RMCG
Fill out this [form](#) to receive a call back.



Missed a previous edition? Browse other topics from *Our Natural Advantage* below.

[View past editions](#)

If you would like to share a relevant resource, event or opportunity, please email
landprogram@cradlecoast.com by 22 June to be considered for the next edition.

Edition 14
4 June 2026



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