

Agricultural Greenhouse Emissions Project

General Summary

Introduction.

This project is built upon the underlying premise that; **'Reducing Agricultural Greenhouse emissions results in increased production, cost savings and benefits for the environment'**

There are many options available to farmers that can lead to reduced emissions on farm and provide cost benefits. These options range from energy efficiency, effluent and nutrient management, and improvements in soils, pastures and animal health.

Water efficiencies include solar pumps, improved reticulation, installing more troughs and fencing dams. Recycling of farm wastes is also becoming more viable.

Project Objectives:

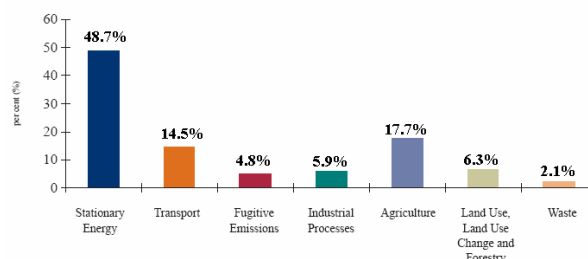
The objectives for each farmer are to implement an action plan to;

- reduce greenhouse emissions by 10%,
- improve water use efficiency by 15% and
- reduce waste to landfill by 10%

Project Officers and auditors will work with each participating farm to profile their current emissions, water and waste outputs. Then options to achieve reductions or efficiencies will be presented and discussed.

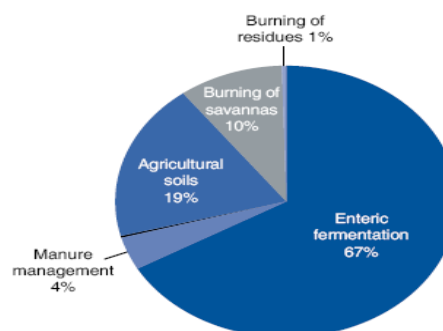
Each farmer can then nominate their preferred options and we will work through the costings together. Armed with this information, decisions can then be made about which options are both affordable and meet the project targets.

Agriculture makes up 17.7% of Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions



According to the 2005 National GHG Inventory

An average breakdown of emissions within the agricultural sector suggests.



The Greenhouse in Agriculture research team estimates that;

- **By applying best management practices in animal nutrition and management that a reduction in methane emissions of up to 20% can be achieved and**
- **By applying best management practices in the application of nitrogen fertilisers, and the management of waterlogged soils that a reduction of 10% in nitrous oxide emissions can be achieved.** (pers.comm. Richard Eckard)

References:

Eckard, R. & Hegarty, R. (2007) Best Management Practices for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from Dairy Farms. Sourced from Greenhouse in Agriculture Project web site, www.greenhouse.unimelb.edu.au