



## **SOIL PIT FOR PROFIT**

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On Thursday the 26th of September, 27 farmers, researchers, consultants and machinery agents gathered at Colin and Ruth Cail's property east of Wubin to share ideas about improving our soils. One of the ideas discussed was using a mouldboard plough to incorporate lime. Other benefits for using the plough include burying weed seeds and encouraging the roots to grow deeper in the soil. However there are plenty of risks and costs involved which were up for debate.

Visiting soil scientist from Victoria, Christian Bannan began the day by outlining the soils potential to grow more roots and store more organic carbon in the soil.

Stephen Davies of the Department of Agriculture and Food WA shared tips and results from other mouldboard ploughing work across WA. The key is not rolling the soil after ploughing and seed as close to ploughing as possible. Minimising compaction after ploughing was the main message from the Cail family as well.

Economics calculations from Greg Easton of Farmanco concluded the investment could be paid back by year 3 and that if you plan on ploughing less than 150ha a contractor is the more economic option. Farmanco agronomist, David Cameron then explained to growers which of our wheat and barley varieties have the best acid tolerance.

Thank you to the Cail family, DAFWA, the Australia Government, John Marrone for digging the soil pit and all those who attended the day.

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