

Walgett consultant

A facilitator has been appointed to co-ordinate a pilot National health program, which is having a significant impact on Australian farming families.

Walgett agricultural business consultant, Jodi McLean has been appointed to manage the Sustainable Farm Families (SFF) program in the Walgett shire.

SFF was developed by farmers, health services, university and farm industry groups as a response to higher illness and premature death rates in farming families.

Local facilitator Jodi McLean says the good health of a farmer and farming family is the single most important investment that a farm business can have.

The Sustainable Farm Families project is being brought to the Walgett region by Jodi McLean, Department of Health and Ageing and Western District Health Service, the initiator of SFF.

SFF was piloted in broadacre farming families in south eastern Australia. Other farming industries recognised its positive impact on farmer health and attitudes to health and health and safety,

resulting in SFF for sugar, cotton and dairy industries.

So far there have been 450 farm family members who have participated in the program, and 100 per cent have said they would recommend SFF to other farming families.

"I had no idea health was so important to my farming success," one participant said.

The Federal Government has supported a pilot program for remote Australia.

It is funding SFF workshops in Katherine, Esperance, Tennant Creek, Georgetown and Walgett.

Jodi McLean said the SFF program provided a wonderful opportunity for farming families in the Walgett region to take positive action about their health.

"There's no point in a better bottom line if you're not there to enjoy it," Jodi McLean said.

Anyone interest in learning more about Sustainable Farm Families should contact Jodi McLean on (02) 6828 3335. The website www.sustainablefarmfamilies.org.au has more information about the program.



JODI McLEAN

Tamworth
Hard to find? V