



# Alpine Valleys

## agribusiness forum

*'Australian Alpine Valleys - Where the Best Grows to Perfection'*

## media release & photo opportunity

November 21, 2010

### **Managing a modern farming system to adapt to a variable climate**

Trying to manage the variations of climate risk as predicted by CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology and benefit is an important skill farmers need to develop in order to make short and long term decisions about their farming systems.

There are a myriad of options when planning farming practices in order to maximise opportunities that present. Capital options (machinery), stock options (numbers and joining), pasture management (rotational or set and species selection) exporting or importing feed (excess or deficient fodder reserves) cropping rotation and species selection.

The AAVAF recently received a grant from the Climate Communities funding body, Sustainability Victoria, to deliver to the farming community options on how best to manage climate risk in order to profit from changes as they occur. Information will be exchanged in the form of a Leadership Program that will take a regional approach to understanding and managing to adapt to climate change. Farming families from across the region, representing a wide range of commodities, will be invited to participate.

There is a well documented need for information coupled with the provision of leadership skills in the rural communities of North East Victoria. In significant individual reports commissioned by the North East Greenhouse Alliance, Hume Strategy for Sustainable Communities, Australian Conservation Foundation and the Federal Government, there is a great need to build the capacity within communities to adapt and benefit from climate variability, improve farming systems and influence others.

The AAVAF Empowering NE Victorian Farming Communities to Adapt to Climate Change Leadership program will be delivered in seven intensive training sessions conducted over a 10 month period in the region.

The activities will be based on the topics of climate change, carbon management, sustainable resource management, a community approach to energy conservation and its utilisation, climate change drivers, community opportunities/ awareness, sustainable farming options, cropping options, livestock management, plant manipulation in the horticultural sector, strategic thinking and the changing climate affected economic drivers that will affect regional economies. Leadership, communication and networking skills will also be included in the program. An integral part of the program will be the region/national and statewide case studies will be used to highlight adaptation projects.

The Leadership program is designed to build climate change knowledge, leadership, representative capacity and decision making skills of selected rural leaders in North East Victoria. Adapted from a very successful model delivered in the region by AVCLP, key goals are to increase significant and measurable skills, knowledge, direct representation on boards and committees and empower the presentation of materials and argument to influence policy and change.

For more information on the AAVAF Empowering NE Victorian Farming Communities to Adapt to Climate Change Leadership program call Rod Grant on (03) 5721 7594.