

Trevor and Judy's Organic Farm



Lara Tyrell, Ella Rowley, Jessica Pianui
and Matthew O'Callaghan

Griffith North Public School



Creative Catchment Kids

Creative Catchment Kids is an initiative of Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre. It aims to improve engagement between our funding partners and school students by providing opportunities for positive and authentic ventures that encourage students to develop creative solutions to agriculture and natural resource management issues.

www.wirraminna.org/creative-catchment-kids/

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre

The Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre is located in Burrumbuttock, north of Albury in southern NSW. Since 1995, the centre, which is adjacent to Burrumbuttock Public School, has provided opportunities for discovery and learning about the natural environment, the ecology of the local woodlands and the beauty of native plants.

www.wirraminna.org

Enviro-Stories

Enviro-Stories is an innovative literacy education program that inspires learning about natural resource and catchment management issues. Developed by Peekdesigns, this program provides students with an opportunity to publish their own stories that have been written for other kids to support learning about their local area.

www.envirostories.com.au

Trevor and Judy's Organic Farm

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School: Griffith North Public School

Local Land Heroes - Pests in Irrigation

In 2015, students involved in the Creative Catchment Kids program researched and wrote stories about their 'Local Land Heroes' who are involved in pest management in and around the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area. These heroes are local individuals, couples, a business or industries that have made a difference in their local community by contributing to the management of pest animals and plants. The program was generously funded by Riverina Local Land Services.

Local Land Heroes is part of Enviro-Stories, a PeekDesigns education program.



In Griffith, many people's lives revolve around farming. There are over 1000 farms in Griffith and surrounds. We visited one of them to see what farm life is like.

The farm we visited is owned by Judy and Trevor Allen. Trevor works during the day as an accountant, so Judy gave us the tour and explained a little about the running of the farm.





Why are they local land heroes?

Judy and Trevor's farm is organic which means they don't use harsh chemicals to stop pests or improve the quality of their animals and crops. This is great for the environment. It is also great for people who like to buy organic meat because they know there are no chemicals in the meat. This is what makes them local land heroes.

We have learned that farming is hard work but also very rewarding.



The Farm

Judy and Trevor's farm is a 30 hectare farm, with 20 hectares planted to crops (hay and oats). Their main income from the farm is from Wiltipoll (sheep) and organic meat from Dexter cattle. They also have chickens, guinea fowl, one turkey and three horses as pets. The farm is located on the Rankin Springs road outside Beelbanger, New South Wales.

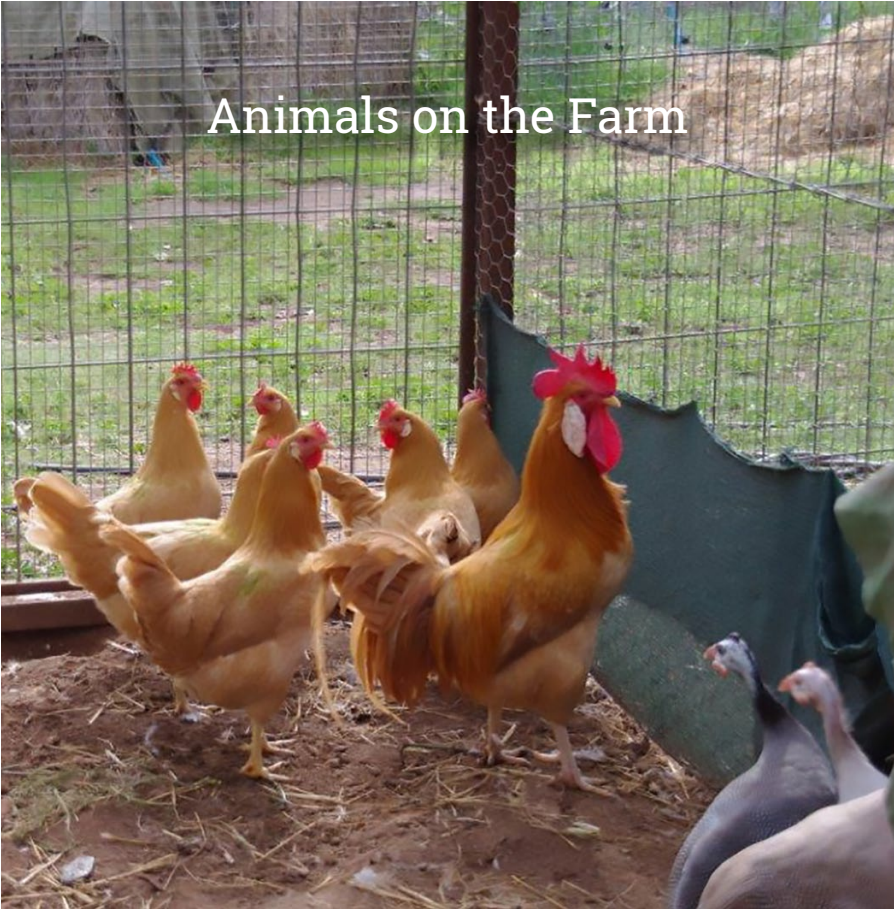




About Judy and Trevor

Trevor and Judy grew up on rice farms in the MIA. They have lived on their farm for 15 years. Her hobbies include horse riding and gardening. Judy studied horticulture (cultivating plants) at university which is a lot like agriculture (farming plants). They have two sons, one who lives with them on the farm. On their farm Trevor and Judy have a range of animals and crops.

Animals on the Farm



Chickens

They have buff leg horn chickens which are not part of their farming income. The chickens can be affected by foxes. To prevent this Judy and Trevor put chicken fencing underground so the foxes can't dig their way into the pens



Sheep

Judy and Trevor own and breed Wiltipoll sheep, a special breed that shed their wool. They breed their sheep to sell for stud and meat. They have to be careful when the lambs are little in case crows peck the lambs eyes, this could lead to death for the lamb. Sheep can be affected by foxes, worms, lice, Sheep Bovine Johnes disease, and more.



Cows

They own Dexter cows that can weigh about 450 kilograms. Judy and Trevor breed cows for meat just like the sheep. They feed the cows hay and other feed but the hay they feed the cattle is grown organically on their farm. The cows can be affected by cow Bovine Johnes, lice, worms and other parasites.

Pests

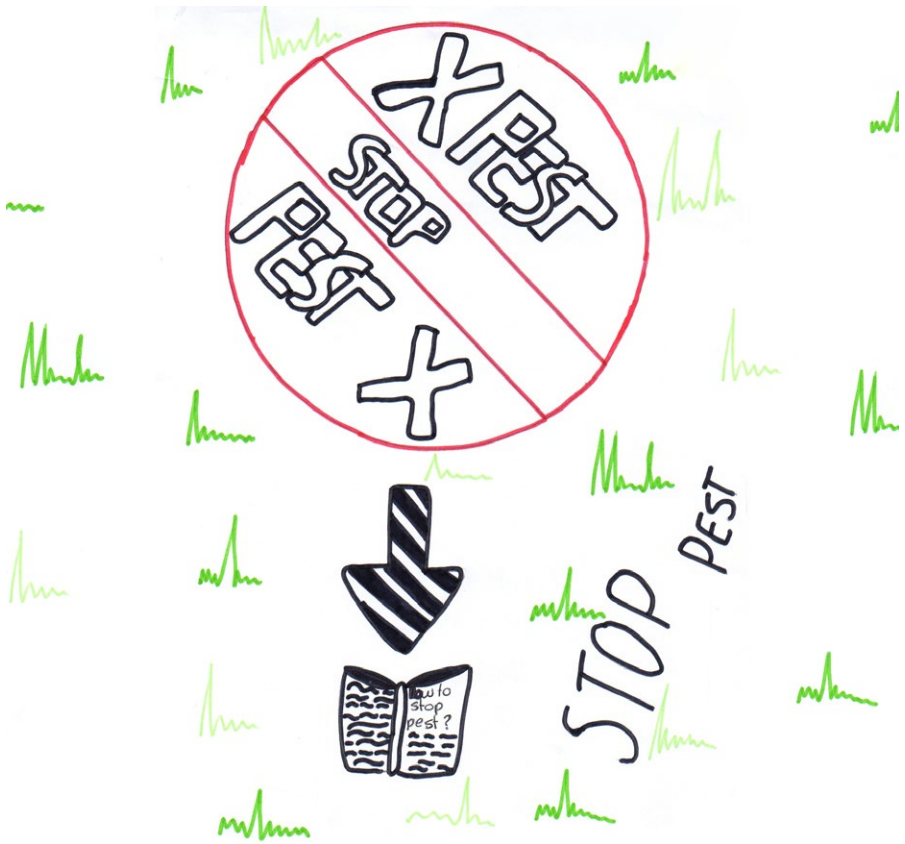
Every farm has issues with pests of some sort. These can make farm life very difficult. Pests can reduce productivity.

Pest and diseases:

- Fruit fly
- Crows
- Galahs
- Foxes
- Worms
- Lice
- Fungus
- Khaki weed
- Mice
- Cow Bovine Johnes
- Sheep Bovine Johnes

Good management strategies lead to healthy livestock and plants which help to prevent pest and disease problems.





How they stop pests

Judy and Trevor often research about the pest before they occur to know when they're going to come. This is to stop the pests from coming, to be prepared if they do come and to be able to eradicate them easily when they do.

Because it is an organic farm you cannot use chemicals at all unless the vet says so.



Crops

Judy and Trevor grow grains to feed their animals. It takes an enormous amount of time to produce grain for the animals to keep them nice and healthy.

Judy and Trevor fertilise their crops using compost from their own compost heap which is a great way to be self-sufficient.

The crops can be affected by mice, birds and weeds.



The day at the farm was super fun and an excellent educational experience. We would like to thank Judy and Trevor for welcoming us to their farm and showing us their organic farming techniques. It was a memorable experience that gave us a better understanding of farm life.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Adams for organising this experience and helping us gain a deeper understanding of farming and what it takes to create a book.

Fun Facts

- A Dexter Cow weighs about 1,000 pounds, or 450 kilograms.
- The compound eye of the fruit fly contains 760 eye reflects.
- A female rabbit is called a doe and a male rabbit is called a buck.
- Sheep have four stomachs and each help digest their food.
- A flea can jump 130 times its height.
- A cockroach can live up to nine days without its head.
- Ants don't sleep
- Cockroaches can carry 33 types of bacteria.

Thanks for reading!



Matthew O'Callaghan, Jessica Pianui, Lara Tyrell,
Mrs. Celia Adams and Ella Rowley

2015 Year 6, Griffith North Public School

CONGRATULATIONS

Wirraminna Environmental Education Centre and
the Creative Catchment Kids Program won the
2015 NSW Junior Landcare Team Award and will be
competing in the 2016 National Landcare Awards.



**Local Land
Services**
Riverina

