

# Tim Modra

## TREK Regen

### Petwood

*"The regenerative farming approach is definitely helping us to enjoy what we do out*



**Enterprise:** Beef Cattle and Prime lamb



**Property size:** 200ha



**Annual rainfall:** 475mm



### Why regenerative agriculture?

Initially, I just wanted to go farming, having left my parents' farm after finishing school 15 years earlier.

The property I was able to purchase didn't lend itself to conventional approaches and consequently I started reading widely about other options.

I spent a lot of time reading about Allan Savory's approach and continued to read widely about different people applying similar principles, including Gabe Brown, Nicole Masters, David Pollock and Joel Salatin.



### What practices and principles have you introduced to make your farm more regenerative?

Holistic management of the property has been the overarching principle.

This has seen an increase in paddocks from 5 paddocks up to 20 currently.

An improved water access plan is currently underway.

We continue to aid livestock with supplements to manage pasture nutrient deficiencies. We're also trying to make sure we've got the water points in the right places so we're able to get enough water to the stock, which has been a challenge in this steeper country.



## What have been your greatest challenges?

Most of the challenges to date stem from the increase in livestock (leading to disease pressures like lice and footrot).

There was also an issue last year with increasing stocking rates too soon and not correctly matching it to carrying capacity, which led to negative stock production outcomes.

The financial impost to implement the overall plan as soon as possible has also been challenging.

Probably getting too excited too quickly and cranking the stocking rate a little bit sooner than we should have resulted in some poor animal health outcomes, so we've been trying to fix them up with loose licks and that sort of thing.



## What have been your biggest successes?

The biggest regenerative agriculture successes we've seen today have really been due to increased soil cover.

We've found that the dams don't fill up with water like they used to, and we put that down to the fact that the rain is staying up on the slopes due to that increase in ground cover and soil infiltration.

The regenerative farming approach definitely helps us to enjoy what we do out here. Being able to avoid chemical and synthetic fertiliser dependency, playing with the dirt and planning different things to encourage greater complexity in the landscape all make you feel better.



## Where to from here?

Reducing stock access to the permanent creek is the current project, with the assistance of the Healthy Rivers grant funding. We're further increasing the ecological benefits on the property by establishing native paddock trees and planting shelterbelts. We see shade and shelter as a really important way for improving and maintaining stock health.

Future plans include additional fencing for paddocks subdivision, with further water infrastructure investment at the back of the property to help make that happen.



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