Rob Malone and Pamela Wright
Anacotilla Springs

Second Valley

"I just can't believe I live in this beautiful land. Every time I look out,walk around, I think, I'm so lucky to be living here."

Enterprise: Murray Grey beef cattle

Property size: 53ha

Annual rainfall: 450mm

Why regenerative agriculture?

When we bought the property in 2012, there was no internal fencing or infrastructure at all. Our first action was to fence off the riparian areas of the Anacotilla River and tributaries.

As we were new to property and farming management, we attended courses to add to our awareness and knowledge.

The courses exposed us to the latest thinking about sustainable agriculture methods.

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

After fencing off the riparian areas, we started a program (which is ongoing) of dividing large paddocks into smaller ones to facilitate rotational grazing.

We are trying to incorporate observed (watching the grass levels and grazing habits of the livestock) rotational grazing.

We are aiming to reduce or replace chemical inputs, such as herbicide and synthetic fertiliser, for weed control and fertiliser.

For four years, we have not used Superphosphate as a fertiliser and are moving to chicken manure, mushroom compost or 'worm wee'. We hope to increase biological activity within the soil with these natural additives.

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA HILLS AND FLEURIEU

What have been your greatest challenges?

As we have entered into property ownership in our later years and from non-agriculture based professions, the challenge is obtaining and understanding information about farming and the many different approaches available to manage one's land.

Creating the infrastructure is long term and costly, and everything takes a lot longer than expected, particularly when dealing with cyclical nature of the environment.

What have been your biggest successes?

We are at the early stages of incorporating regenerative agriculture principles and methods into farming the land.

We are hoping to see an increase in soil health and then see what farming benefits come from that. Regeneration of the native vegetation, particularly red gums, after fencing off the riparian areas, has been very satisfying.

Where to from here?

We will continue to seek to learn more about how we can improve our property, both ecologically and for farming.

Being involved with others who are applying similar methods is very beneficial.

We will investigate ways we can access different machinery to help us adopt new methods of improving the soil.

In the future, we may start to plant mixed crops, both summer and winter. We hope to irrigate one of our paddocks to enable further pasture production in summer.

We will be refining our rotational grazing, by implementing more rigorously the principles of Maia grazing.

Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Future Drought Fund

This program received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA HILLS AND FLEURIEU