



SEYMOUR ALTERNATIVE FARMING EXPO

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MEDIA RELEASE

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All the latest and greatest ideas are at Seymour

There is always something new at the Seymour Alternative Farming Expo and this year is no exception.

Events manager Susie Filleti says people come to the expo to see what is different, and every year there are innovative new businesses and products.

"This year we have a variety of demonstrations about hemp farming and the use of hemp products," Ms Filleti said.

"From building to cooking, it seems there is no limit to what can be done with hemp."

Hemp Victoria will be available to answer questions from potential growers and there will be a demonstration of how to build a hemp dog kennel each day.

In the Learning Hub there will be talks about hemp farming and the use of hempcrete, an environmentally friendly and energy-efficient building material.

"Although 'alternative' doesn't necessarily mean more sustainable we are always pleased to showcase innovations that use less energy or recycled products," Ms Filleti said.

Geohex Erosion Control System is made from 100 per cent recycled and recyclable plastic and is an environmentally-friendly solution to soil erosion problems.

Rodney Garwood and the Geohex team will be setting up their product for people to check out.

"It's a great solution to stop the ruts in your roads and the bogs around the troughs," Mr Garwood said.

Wayne Lording and his father decided to see what they could do to reduce energy costs on their property near Euroa.



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They have solar panels, solar hot water, LED lighting and geothermal heating and cooling.

“We’ve made the money back with savings inside four years,” Mr Lording said. He will be speaking on ‘Sustainable farming using green energy’ in the Learning Hub. People have been building fences for many years, but that doesn’t mean there isn’t a better way to do it.

“Alternative doesn’t just relate to different animals or machines. Sometimes it just means a new and more efficient way to do an everyday task,” Ms Filleti said.

Casterton engineer Rod Davidson has developed a new fencing clip that reduces the time and physical strain involved with fencing.

Davo’s Fencing Clip can be installed using a standard drill and is made from heavy galvanised high-tensile wire for extra durability. Visitors to the expo can try the clips for themselves before buying.

“The expo is not just about businesses,” Ms Filleti said.

“We also like to showcase projects which can help landowners improve their land management and farming practices, so we have several speakers from Agriculture Victoria keeping visitors up-to-date on a range of topics, from the National Livestock Identification System to preparation for livestock and horses in bushfires.”

TreeProject is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation linking farmers and volunteers to grow native plant seedlings.

Volunteer growers are provided with kits containing everything they need to grow the plants. When the seedlings are ready, the farmers collect them for planting out. As the seedlings cost landholders just \$220 per 500, this is a cost-effective way for farmers to improve pasture, retain water and reduce the potential spread of grassfires.

The TreeProject group will be at the expo throughout the weekend to promote its volunteer service.

A full listing of site holders and program of events is available in the official event guide, which will be available with *County News* from February 5.

The Seymour Alternative Farming Expo will be held from February 15 to 17, at Kings Park in Seymour. For further information or to buy tickets online and save 17 per cent off the gate price, visit: www.seymourexpo.com.au

[View and download event imagery](#)



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