



Millen Farm - Farming Principles

Millen Farm will seek input from respected sources that are aligned with our ethics in order to inform and improve our farming enterprises.

Water Principle

Millen Farm will capture and store rainwater in water tanks and in the soil. Water on the farm will be used in the most efficient ways possible by efficient irrigation, increasing the water storage capacity of the soil and reducing evaporation.

Millen Farm will maximise the use of available water by implementing the following strategies:

- Capturing rainfall in water tanks
- Capturing overland water flow in swales and beds on contour
- Building soil health to retain water and nutrients in the soil
- Using water efficient irrigation
- Planting cover crops to reduce evaporation from soil
- Encouraging plants to have deep root systems
- Planting crops that are compatible with our climate – where possible
- Increasing the carbon levels in the soil to enhance water holding capacity

Soil

Millen Farm will improve soil life and structure by implementing organic methods to: increase the soil biology and organic content of the soil; protect the soil from erosion and compaction; and control weeds and pests and diseases.

Millen Farm will build soil health by:

- Implementing organic methods such as adding compost and plant and compost teas
- Promoting growth of soil biology (bacteria, fungi, protozoans, nematodes)
- Promoting soil vitality using biodynamic preparations
- Adding minerals where appropriate
- Structuring a robust crop rotation with strong emphasis on cycling appropriate green manure crops depending on the plants being grown
- Providing mulch and living mulch to protect the soil from erosion and compaction from rain
- Growing plants contributing to mulch on the farm
- Using companion planting as it relates to soil improvement
- Implementing a minimal till method and incorporating mostly fixed beds into the vegetable growing area design
- Abstaining from using any chemical fertilisers, herbicides or pesticides



Millen Farm's goal is to satisfy the organic certification standards with regard to soil management. Millen Farm will consistently monitor soil carbon, nutrients and soil biology to assist with fine tuning and continuous improvement.

Crop management

Millen Farm will build a resilient and successful market garden using a robust crop management plan. Millen Farm will be a poly-culture farm growing system.

Millen Farm will be a poly-culture farm growing system:

- Use poly culture practices with crop diversity within growing beds, whilst incorporating a structured rotation system within crop planning
- Plant in season crops and recognise the necessity to experiment with crops that thrive in our changing climate and are highly marketable
- Crops planted will include a mixture of: vegetables, herbs, fruit trees and bush tucker

Animal management

Animals and livestock on Millen Farm will be designed into the farming practice to maximise soil fertility and animal health and wellbeing and to reduce human labour.

Millen Farm will incorporate livestock and native animals into farming activities to maximise soil fertility and animal health and well being. This will be done by:

- Designing livestock activities and requirements into the farm system,
- Supplying livestock with organic feed, grown on site where possible
- Incorporating animal management strategies to increase soil fertility
- Identifying relationships between animal and crop inputs and outputs and using them to benefit both animals and crops
- Strive for an appropriate balance of life in the farm with domesticated and wild animals

Integrated pest and disease management

Millen Farm's goal is to satisfy the organic certification standards with regard to integrated pest and disease management.

Millen Farm's primary focus for pest and disease control will be to enhance soil biology resulting in strong plant vitality. Other pest and disease strategies include:

- organic methods of pests and disease control
- companion planting
- biodynamic preparations
- netting of crops when appropriate



Design

Millen Farm will be designed using Permaculture principles to create a highly productive farm that is efficient, beautiful and functional.

Community

Millen Farm will create a community that is inclusive and engaging, respectful and open, and provides training and education in growing and preparing food to the wider community.

Diversity

Millen Farm will create a diverse and resilient ecosystem that will benefit the community and native flora and fauna.

Millen Farm will create a diverse and resilient ecosystem that incorporates:

- Both traditional and newer varieties (including bush tucker) of fruit, vegetables and herbs for the community
- Native and exotic trees, shrubs and grasses and ponds to provide food and habitat for insects, birds, reptiles and other wildlife
- An interesting and stimulating environment for people to participate in and learn from

Genetics

Over time, Millen Farm will develop its own seed stock from successful crops and plants grown on site. Whilst that is developing, Millen Farm will strive to work with certified organic non hybrid seeds for cropping.

Duplicable

Millen Farm will create a duplicable model that others can implement to create their own successful farming venture.

Research and Development

Millen Farm will strive to improve our growing methods and improvement of the environment to create a more successful and resilient growing system. We will conduct research on site and with other MF sites in partnership with universities and other research centers.

Finance

Millen Farm aims to be a financially self-sustaining, resilient enterprise that is able to generate an income that will build the business and assist budding farmers.