

A group of Lower Burdekin cane farmers recently learned about optimising soil health and the benefits of cover crops at a workshop held in Airville, presented by David Hardwick and Simon Mattsson, of

#### [Soil Land Food](#)

. The first of three one-day sessions was kindly hosted by cane farmer Denis Pozzebon. Attendees learned how to identify soil texture by adding water, creating a ball (also known as a bolus) and making a ribbon-like structure. Later they visited a paddock to find out about Dennis Pozzebon's trial of mixed cover crops, including sunn hemp and sunflowers.

David Hardwick said soil was a critical part of any farm business, and it needed to be looked after, including ensuring the presence of sufficient organic matter.

The event was funded through the

#### [Queensland Government](#)

Reef Water Quality Program as part of the Enhanced Extension Coordination Project.

The second and third workshops will be held in April and May.

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