



Biological Farming A TAFE course for all farmers and soil managers



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FOR
OUR
COUNTRY

This project is supported by SoilCare Inc through funding from the Australian Government's Caring for our Country.

Teacher: Alan Coates

Course duration: 9 weeks

When: Mondays – 8.30 AM to 4.30 PM– starting 22 February 2010

Where: Macksville

Class members will evaluate soil health and management practices on their respective farms using the Northern Rivers Soil Health Card and soil lab analyses. Class members will then develop a soil management plan for their farm using biological farming principles and the NEW Soil Best Management Practice Guide.

Course Schedule

22/2/10	Biological Farming Principles
8/3/10	Composting, Build Compost Heap
22/3/10	Soil Balance, Mineral Balance, pH, Nutrient Sources
5/4/10	Compost Check, Soil Structure, Soil Texture, Soil Profiles, Soil Water
19/4/10	Soil Carbon, Soil Biology, Soil Health Card
3/5/10	Compost Check, Mulches, Cover Crops, Biodiversity
17/5/10	Soil Testing, Soil/Plant Nutrition, Fertilizers, Nutrient Access
31/6/10	Compost Check, Develop Biological Soil Management Plan
14/6/10	Soil Degradation, Sustainable Soil Management

Recommended reading: ***The Biological Farmer*** – *A Complete Guide to the Sustainable and Profitable Biological System of Farming* by Gary Zimmer (\$35.00 from SoilCare Inc or you can borrow a copy –one week limit)

The Biological Farmer - Editorial Review from Barnes and Noble: "*Biological farmers work with nature, feeding soil life, balancing soil minerals, and tilling soils with a purpose. It is a safe and sustainable system designed to keep production up. Once the chemical, physical and biological properties of the soil are in balance, you can expect optimal outputs, even in bad years. Biological farming improves the environment, reduces erosion, reduces disease and insect problems, and alters weed pressure and it accomplishes this by working in harmony with nature.*

Skilled biological farmers learn how to take care of soil life. They nurture it, feed it a balanced diet, and use tillage tools and methods to enhance soil life. Biological farmers learn proper fertilizer uses to correct mineral and nutrient imbalances to feed plants and soil life. This is the farming consultant's bible and Zimmer knows how to make responsible, sustainable farming work."

If you are interested in this course email: info@soilcare.org or

Phone: Bonnie Walker 6628 1788 or 0408 359 429