



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

Teacher: Dave Forrest    Course duration: 9 weeks    When: Mondays – 9.00 AM to 4.30 PM  
 Where: Dyraaba Country Hall, Sextonville Rd., Dyraaba

Class members will adapt the Coastal Grazing Soil Health Card and Soil Best Management Practice Guide for local use and evaluate soil health and management practices on their respective farms. Members will then develop a soil management plan to address the specific needs of each farm and farmer.

### Course Schedule

19 April	Introduction to biological farming, farm plans Practical: the Northern Rivers Soil Health Card (SHC); building a compost pile on farm
26 April	Soil fertility; carbon cycling; better management practices Practical: SHC adaptation
3 May	Grazing management; pasture species selection and variety trials Practical: Soil Best Management Practice Guide (BMP)
10 May	Plant and soil nutrition; organic matter cycling; fertiliser use; compost turning and BMP adaptation
17 May	Soil Biology Management; carbon cycling by dung beetles and earthworms
24 May	Soil Health Card and Soil Best Management Practice Guide; Field Examples
31 May	Soil Best Management Practice Guide; Field Examples and compost turning
7 June	Biological Farming Farm Plans
14 June	Review

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](mailto:info@soilcare.org) or phone: Bonnie Walker 6628 1788 or 0408 359 429