



## **ORGANIC FARMING – why bother?**

Organic farming, the practice of nurturing the soil, has been an integral part of mankind's livelihood for all of recorded history. It is only of recent times, since the advent of "The Green Revolution" of the last century when 'the world was to be fully fed with the use of industrial agriculture' and high production was the only future, that organic farming has fallen out of favour.

So, what has changed to make farmers revisit the benefits of organic farming? For one, organic farming is no longer shrouded in the 'muck, magic and hippie' image so commonly perceived by many people. On the contrary, organic agriculture is now supported in scientific research as science begins to come to terms with the holistic approach that this style of farming has always embraced. And organic farming is shown to work - for the farmer, the environment and the consumer!

Through science, the soil's fertility can now be fully analysed by its nutrient, physical and biological status. It then ultimately rests with the farmer to put into place practices derived from this knowledge that will provide the best form of nutrient in food and quality fibre without compromising soil, water and plant resources. Now this can be done using biological or organic methods with many conventional farmers and mainstream researchers already indulging some biological techniques into their systems. A good example of this is the reuse of effluent, once considered a waste, on dairy farms. It is now being recognised as a very valuable resource and stimulates the soil biology way beyond the expected effect as assessed by its chemical analysis.

The example given above is one of biological farming because it does not exclude drenches or antibiotics or other inputs not allowed in organic farming. This serves to demonstrate that it is a much smaller and easily accepted step to use your current farming system but consciously include management to enhance and benefit from the biological networks naturally occurring in soil, plants and animals. Once biological farming has been effectively mastered, it is only a small step to organic status if the extra premiums and recognition are sought.

OK, why bother to farm organically? Well it is more cost effective and reliance upon inputs can be almost negligible. For the consumer, it means an assurance that no chemicals are used in their food production and at the same time organic methods are more likely to begin to restore some of the environmental degradation bestowed upon us by past agricultural systems.

Ask any practicing organic farmer how his farm is coping with the dry conditions, or the animal health and what his vet costs are and you will find that the answer is always very positive compared to what you are used to hearing. This is because he plans to make the farm more resilient to adverse conditions by nurturing the soil. It is that simple.

So, you want to learn what can be done for milk fever, lice, mastitis, grass tetany and all the other things that were never before considered normal? There are lots of answers with often simple solutions but they all start from the soil. And there are other answers that will assist the farmer overcome the problem until the soil can be properly balanced.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

**AgriSolutions Pty Ltd**

**P O Box 81, Darnum Vic 3822**

**Phone/Fax: 03 5627 8663**

**[info@agriculturalsolutions.com.au](mailto:info@agriculturalsolutions.com.au)**

**[www.agriculturalsolutions.com.au](http://www.agriculturalsolutions.com.au)**

A.B.N. 72 081 445 141