

Effective allowed inputs – that work!

» Farmers and graziers offer tips on some of their preferred farm inputs – including registered allowed inputs, products made on-farm or others.

Grazier, New England Region, NSW

What's the most effective allowed input you use?

We use Generade Premium, made by Animal Innovations. It's a pre-travel conditioner for cattle which is not registered, but we've had approval for use by the BFA. It contains glucose, minerals and vitamins.

What effect does it have?

It relaxes cattle destined for slaughter while on the truck. To its advantage the carcass is heavier so fluid isn't lost through agitation of the beast, and it has successfully reduced dark cutters to none, or close to none. Dark cutters come as a result of cattle becoming distressed. Stress produces lactic acid in the muscle and changes the pH and colour of the meat. When the meat is dark it is not as attractive to consumers. Some wholesalers deduct dramatically for this.

How do you go about using it?

It comes in a granular form which may then be dissolved in the water supply or used with hay.

Vegetable grower, Melbourne region, VIC

What's the most effective allowed input you use?

We use Rooster Booster, a product manufactured by Neutrog Australia and registered with the BFA. It's higher in calcium which is something we need to boost our soil. It's reasonably priced compared with similar products.

What do you use it on?

Just about everything we need to feed – certainly tomatoes, spring onions – all greenhouse-grown produce. We can't afford to put compost on these plants currently as we haven't been able to get it consistent enough. We have hot spots or strong spots which can burn and you end up losing your plant. At this point in time this pelleted product is our safest option until we perfect our compost.



Under what circumstances do you use it?

To our tomatoes we apply this every six weeks. All certified pellets are good but some more expensive.

What effect does it have?

This product is as good as any we've tried. It is a balanced fertilizer which any of our farm hands can throw on and won't cause any damage.

Fruit grower, Stanthorpe, NSW

What's the most effective allowed input you use?

Well-made compost, either bought from our local landscape compost supplier or made on farm. Often we make our own from hay, feedlot waste or dairy waste, some lime, trace elements, seaweed, etc.

Under what circumstances do you use it?

We use it with planting of anything. We put it in the immediate area of planting of seeds or seedlings and also apply it around our fruit trees every year.

You can put it out in bulk, but if you can't afford to do this, just put it in the planting row and over a couple of years it will help to build up soil health.



What effect does it have?

It is brilliant for plant fertility and provides an ideal root growing area. It promotes all around plant growth and health.

Vegetable grower, Stanthorpe, NSW

What's the most effective allowed input you use?

Worm juice – bought or homemade.

Under what circumstances do you use it?

We use it to promote general plant health and as a stimulant for growing anything.

What effect does it have?

It stimulates biological activity around the root zone, adding bacteria on leaf surfaces and around the root zone, enhancing root uptake of minerals.

The CSIRO has carried out a lot of research showing the great benefits of its use.

How do you go about using it?

You don't need a lot. It's put out as a foliar spray or in irrigation lines.

Vegetable grower, Central Coast, QLD

What's the most effective allowed input you use?

We use Trichoderma spp for management of Phytophthora, and Pythium for growing our eggplants. It is a BFA-registered product made by Organic Crop Protectants.

Under what circumstances do you use it?

We only really use it on eggplants though I've found it also assists with microbial development in the soil, helping root mass development for eggplants, tomatoes and capsicums.

What effect does it have?

It is a micro-organism which assists with bacterial activity, increasing the beneficial bacteria and killing off harmful bacteria. It



also greatly assists with development of the root mass making the plant more effective with nutrition uptake.

How do you go about using it?

We apply it to our seedlings through our irrigation (called fertigation).

Grazier, Melbourne region, VIC

What's the most effective allowed input you use?

Extinosad, an Elanco product. A registered allowed input with the BFA as the ingredients are in line with the standards.

Under what circumstances do you use it?

We use it for controlling fly strike and lice for our lambs. We try to manage the timing of our lambing, marking and mulesing so we

aren't in danger of fly strike, but if we lamb in October and it's a bit warm, it's good insurance to have.

What effect does it have?

It is the only product that can be used without affecting the organic status of the animals. The product works well. It is only effective for six weeks, though generally one application is enough.

The only drawback is that it is not allowed under USDA NOP Standard and therefore product can't be sold into the US as organic.

Please note: These tips from farmers are not necessarily endorsed by the BFA. They are provided as a guide from individuals only. Further research should be made into the suitability of products before making a decision to adopt for use in your enterprise. ◆

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