



Organic Market News

ORGANIC MARKET NEWS

EDITION 40 :: September 2011

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BFA ROADSHOWS - GARY ZIMMER TOURS AUSTRALIA WITH THE BFA, 4 – 14 OCT.

A good measure of good quality soil is a minimum of 25 earth worms per cubic foot of soil, but you won't get the worms if your soil is out of wack!

According to international best-selling author of 'The Biological Farmer' and CEO of leading U.S. sustainable agriculture company Midwestern Bio-Ag, Gary Zimmer, if Australian farmers get the balance right, they should expect optimal results from their crops, even in times of duress.

Mr Zimmer, one of the world's top exponents and educators on biological farming, is in Australia to tour with the Biological Farmers of Australia (BFA) annual national roadshow, which tours six states from 4-14 October 2011.

"To get the good yields, farmers need to eliminate the factors that are limiting production," said Mr Zimmer. "Once the chemical, physical and biological properties of the soil are in balance, you can expect optimal outputs, even in bad years.

"We've seen a 50% increase in yields on a lot of our crops in the United States and we get it with a lot less input. Balance reduces erosion, reduces disease and insect problems and alters weed pressure for the long term," he said.

Results released this year from a 20 year US trial, Rodale Institute Farming Systems Trial (FST), which compared organic (biological) and conventional production methods of corn and soybean crops, showed dramatic benefits in using organic systems over the longer term:

- Organic systems produced 31% higher corn yields than the conventional system during moderate droughts;
- Weed competition in organic production methods were tolerated better than in conventional farming methods;
- Carbon sequestration is highest in manure-based organic production, followed by legume-based organic production;
- Groundwater appears to increase in organic systems with 15-20% higher volume of percolating water and reduced runoff; and
- Energy use in the conventional system was higher than in the organic systems.

***Important Update: Unfortunately Graeme Sait has had to withdraw his appearance at all of the roadshow events due to illness. The BFA wishes Graeme a speedy recovery.**

CLASSIFIEDS:

AGISTMENT:

Agistment for cattle available

ACO certification 10797A and USDA NOP certified property

Location: Baralaba, Central Queensland

Country is good quality growing/finishing country

Contact: Gavin Bailey 07 4998 1281

email usmile4@bigpond.com

CATTLE AND BEEF :

Biodynamic Breeding Cows for sale

Pure bred 'Red Poll' Cows in calf, with calves at foot.

ACO certification 5028BD

90+% Fertility rates, Carcass competition awards and MN2

\$1800 +gst plus freight if delivery is required.

Location: Jamestown, North East S.A.

Contact: Chris Malone 0418 807 414; Tom Malone 0400 791 538

Angus Bulls

2 Registered Angus bulls

ACO certified 10759A

Excellent breeding and genetics, suitable for heifer joinings.

Location: Merrilla Park, Parkesbourne (near Goulburn) NSW 2580

Contact: Toni Mury (02) 4829 2208 toni@mury.com.au

Whole Hereford heifers and steers.

BD cert no: 2232BD

Quiet, good doers.

Location: Central NSW

Contact: Ray Unger 02 6869 7635

122 Mixed-Sex Weaners

EU, NOP, ACO (4544A USDA) certified
Santa Angus Cross, Santa, Santa Short Horns
Full weight 288kg.
\$2.25/kg
Location: Augathella
Contact: John Elmes 07 4654 5454

SHEEP:**240 Merino ewes.**

BD cert no: 2232BD
Scanned in lamb to white Suffolk rams, to lamb in August.
Location: Central NSW
Contact: Ray Unger 02 6869 7635

PIGS**WANTED: Pig producers**

Opportunity exists to supply certified organic pork for overseas markets. If producers are interested in adding pig production to a currently certified operation or converting existing pig operations to organic, please contact Simone Tully, mob. 0408 451 078.

FEED & GRAINS:**Clover & Native Millet Hay**

Large Squares or Rounds
USDA ACO Certification 10511A
Location: Darling River Floodplain
Contact: Justin & Julie McClure 02 68 3373 964
e-mail jj@kallarastation.com.au

Hay 5x4 rolls and small squares

clover/pasture/oaten
NCO certified 5360
Location: Milang SA
Contact: Tim Brown 0427 737 579

Lupins

NCO certified 5360
Location: Milang SA
Contact: Tim Brown 0427 737 579

Sorghum - Cert A - ACO & USDA

ACO certification 4121A
Location: Central Queensland
Contact: Kevin - 0419 657 245

Feed For Sale

- a) Silage: Rye, Pasture & Clover (10/11 Season 1st Cut) - Approx 300 rolls
 - b) Hay: Rye & Pasture (10/11 Season 1st Cut) - Approx 130 Rolls
 - c) Pasture & Clover (Standing) – Approx 80 rolls
- In Conversion 10941C

Location: Echuca Area
Contact: Craig 0427 099 588

Biodynamic Barley, Malt & High Protein

Clean with no weather damage
BD Cert no: 2232BD
Location: Peak Hill, NSW
Contact Ray Unger 02 6869 7635

Hay

Cereal/forage barley hay – large square bales – all grades
Lucerne hay – large square bales – all grades
ACO and NOP certification 4368A
Location: Whetstone Organics, Inglewood Qld
Contact: Rick McDougal 0429 665762 or 07 4652 1361

Oaten and Rye Hay For Sale

5 x 4 Rounds net wrapped
Big Squares 8x4x4
Price is negotiable.
ACO certification 3216A
Location: Shepparton, Victoria
Contact: Peter Morgan 0427 572 689 or 03 5828 9212

BEANS, LEGUMES:

Biodynamic Soya Beans

BD Cert no: 2407BD
Approx 50 tonne 791
Approx 15 tonne Asgrow
Location: Far-North Coast
Contact: Greenridge Organics (02) 6663 1154

GRAPES:

Certified grapes or sell as wine ACO certified from Adelaide Plains South Australia [Premium area]

Selection of grapes ranges from 100-300 tons per variety

1. Pinot gri/Grigio
2. Pinot Nior
3. Sav Blanc
4. Cabernet
5. Shiraz
6. Merlot

ACO certification 11073A IC; 11072W USDA
Contact: Ken Carypidis, Yarra Vale Estates 0412 800 875
email yarravale@bigpond.com

REAL ESTATE:

For Lease: Certified organic citrus orchard and irrigated small crops land, WIWO, Gayndah, Qld

Fantastic and unique opportunity to expand in the organic market without the cost of property ownership.

6.5 ha certified organic citrus orchard just coming into its prime with increasing production over the next 5 years. 3 ha of good quality, sandy loam to clay loam soils under irrigation mains available for additional cropping. Abundant water supplied from river allocation, water harvesting licence, a ring tank dam and high yielding fresh water bore. All equipment for citrus production of a high standard including computerised packing plant, cool room, sheds, staff amenities and a comprehensive list of farm machinery. Established markets for citrus with solid net returns. Picturesque property bounded by the Burnett River and Reids Creek with abundant bird life (over 130 bird species sited). Located just outside of Gayndah, 380 km NW of Brisbane, 180 km inland from Bundaberg and 2 hours from the nearest beach. Bitumen road access to property. Gayndah is a vibrant and friendly country town of approximately 3200 people. Primary and secondary schools, good sporting facilities, 2 caravan parks, airport and many great recreational activities including fishing, skiing, swimming. Three bedroom houses rent in Gayndah for \$150-\$250 per week. Suit small crop grower or citrus grower looking to expand their operations into a Queensland market window. Experience in organic farming, proven finances and a connection with the earth preferred. Assistance from owner available at reasonable rates. Owners looking for a change of direction. For a lease commencing outside of the June/July period, an adjustment in payment will be required to allow for the current cost of growing the 2011/2012 citrus crop. Lease rate \$50 000 + GST per year. 5 year lease with an option to renew. Contact: Les on 0741612250 or 0427612250

IDYLLIC LIFESYTL E WITH LOCATION AND INCOME

Profitable, certified organic blueberry business, 750 fully netted, irrigated plants. Large coolroom. Well maintained grazing property, stockyards, large hayshed - 65 steers. Ample water supply with spring-feed dam; Equestrian facilities, including full dressage arena and stables; 3-bay shed for machinery storage, including powered workshop area. Custom-built brick home, new commercial kitchen, 3 B/R, 2 bathrooms and office. North-easterly aspect to capture valley views and morning sun. Low-maintenance garden, entertaining areas, orchard - 7 mins to Leongatha, Vic. Contact: Chris or Sue Howard 0356686294 or Elders Agent Zel Svenson 0438 636 290

EMPLOYMENT:

POSITION WANTED

An experienced organic farm manager is seeking a position on an organic livestock production system. With a total of 6 years experience in farm management including 2 years in organic beef and lamb production, Michael has 10 years experience in running and designing cell grazing systems and has a keen interest in soil health, pasture monitoring and biological farming. He is also passionate about organics and wanting to stay in the organic industry, please contact Michael on 0427 758 520.

POSITION WANTED

Eliza Reilly from Melbourne Australia completed a permaculture certificate with Rick Coleman in April 2011. Eliza is about to embark on an overseas trip to South America, her journey flies her to Peru where she will be working in a village to help build sustainable huts and vegetable patches and gardens. On her return she is seeking work on a biodynamic farm within Australia from the 7th December 2011 onwards. Please contact her if a position needs filling: respondtoeliza@hotmail.com

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MARKET UPDATE – BEEF

Peter Gall from the Organic Meat Company says there's little change in the organic beef industry at the moment, though the recent slight decline in the Australian dollar has given some relief after a tough few months.

"Cattle are still looking pretty good, but we need more rain now," Peter said.

"Winter's taken its toll on the feed for cattle, so if we don't get some rain shortly cattle will slide a bit in weight. But they're looking great at the moment."

Peter went on to say the quality of beef is good and currently cattle are maintaining their weight, but if the weather remains dry and feed is affected the loss in weight of the cattle will affect the quality of the meat.

"Supply is going well, but we need more suppliers as demand is increasing," Peter said.

MARKET UPDATE – LAMB

Toby Scales from Cleavers Organic Meats says lamb prices have come up a little bit to \$5.80.

"Spring has brought on the suckers – which are milk-fed lamb straight off the ewe - so we're paying a premium for them," Toby said.

"Supply is quite constant, though certainly not in surplus."

"The worm burden in the western areas, where they had continued rain, has possibly lost us a few animals that had to be put in to the conventional market. But on the whole I think most growers have been very diligent with their parasite programs and stock has been coming on well."

"With winter over, most growers are hoping for some spring rain now."

Toby said that demand continues to outstrip availability.

MARKET UPDATE – HORTICULTURE

Margaret Gibbons of Eco-Farms says the good news for consumers is that bananas are finally coming down in price as growers start to catch-up with demand after cyclone Yasi.

"We're getting bigger volumes of bananas and they're dropping in price," Margaret said.

"Asparagus is good and affordable, broccoli you can't give away at the moment as there's so much produce out there."

"The cauliflowers coming through from Black Crow Organics and Mt Whitestone are beautiful. Corn is starting to come through after virtually no corn all winter. Zucchini's are a good price and consumers are buying them up. Lettuces from NSW are good, and snow peas are coming in from Victoria. But potatoes are scarce, and carrots I can't get hold of."

"Tomatoes are coming through well, but pumpkins are scarce at the moment. There are plenty of avocados, Lebanese cucumbers and lemons and the quality is very good. Onions have just started to come in, but they are very expensive and it will be November before we start getting a reasonable amount coming through," Margaret said.

In Queensland, Ross Cowling from United Organics says blueberries and asparagus are starting to come in to the market now, and strawberries are in full production, while mangoes should be coming in a week or two.

“As things get hotter in Queensland we’ll see the Gatton area start to slow down. In another month to six weeks things will get a bit short and prices will go up.

“A bit of rain wouldn’t go a miss for growers, though they do irrigate, which gives them control over the amount of water the crops are receiving.”

FREE MAGAZINE PROMOTIONAL OFFER

The Australian Organic Producer magazine is the only agricultural magazine designed specifically for producers working in the biological, organic or biodynamic industries and those looking to incorporate sustainable, biological land management practises.

Currently the magazine is only available by subscription, or through BFA membership. If you’d like to receive an introductory **FREE copy** of the magazine complete our short and simple survey.

Click on the yellow button on the home page of the BFA website at www.bfa.com.au to go directly to the survey – on completion, fill in your postal address and a **FREE copy** of the magazine will be posted to you.

STORY – 2011 NAB AGRIBUSINESS FOR EXCELLENCE

NAB Agribusiness and Monash University are proud to introduce the 2011 NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence.

As part of their ongoing commitment to agribusiness and rural Australia, they are pleased to accept nominations from individuals and organisations that operate in the agribusiness industries. These prestigious awards recognise and reward people and organisations that have excelled in their contribution to these industries.

They are a highlight of Australia’s agribusiness calendar and are now recognised as the premier awards event for corporate and individual achievement within the agribusiness, food, fibre and beverage sectors.

NAB Agribusiness is particularly proud to again be presenting both the Agribusiness Leader of the Year Award and the Primary Producer of the Year Award.

These awards provide you and/or your company with the opportunity to gain national recognition for achieving excellence in agribusiness. You are encouraged to apply for one or more of the award categories outlined in the application form which can be downloaded from:

<http://nab.com.au/agribusinessawards>

Applications close on Friday 14 October 2011.

Award winners will be announced at the Gala Dinner on Thursday 1 December at Crown Palladium, Southbank, Victoria.

Source: Monash University

STORY – MAJOR NATIONAL PEST ANIMAL R&D THROUGH TO FINAL ASSESSMENT STAGE

Australia’s largest integrated pest animal R&D initiative, the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, is a step closer in its aim for funding to be renewed so that it can produce more breakthrough pest animal control technologies. This work is critical in tackling a problem that is

costing agriculture and regional Australia \$1 billion a year, and impacts hundreds of nationally listed threatened species.

The Invasive Animals CRC is seeking a five-year extension from the Australian Government once its current funding runs out in June 2012. It was advised today that it has made it through to the final stage of Round 14 of the Federal Science Department's CRC Program process. Key outputs from the extension will include:

- **Australia's first carp biocontrol agent ready for approval.** Overseas experience shows that carp populations can be reduced by more than 80% which will greatly improve the health of the Murray-Darling and its important wetlands.
- **Building a strategic rabbit biocontrol platform** based on new technologies that ensures Australia gets maximum impact from Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease (RHD). The platform will result in national benefits of more than \$1 billion over 15 years and help the recovery of many of the 156 nationally threatened species impacted by rabbits.
- **A new humane rat and mouse toxin and mouse outbreak response system** to efficiently reduce mouse plague impacts for grain producers.

The proposed extension builds on an impressive track record that includes:

- **Rabbits:** Discovering the native benign virus (RCV-A1) that was partially protecting rabbits in wetter, cooler regions from RHD. Then using this knowledge in our RHD Boost project to see if new overseas RHD strains can overcome the RCV-A1 virus leading to increased effectiveness against rabbits in these areas. The proposed release of any new RHD Boost strains that have been shown to be safe and effective will be done using a new freeze-dried delivery system to reduce transport costs.
- **Wild dogs and foxes:** Developing a next generation bait that includes an antidote for working and pet dogs and new delivery systems such as mechanical ejectors and lethal trap devices that give land managers more control options. This has been combined with work to validate and then promote the effectiveness of regional wild dog control approaches based on a cooperative approach between farmers and public land managers.
- **Feral pigs:** Developing the world's first manufactured feral pig bait and a next generation bait with an antidote for working and pet dogs.

The Invasive Animals CRC extension is a focussed collaboration of 26 partners that have already committed more than \$52 million or almost three quarters of the \$72 million over five years needed to continue the R&D program that will deliver the new technologies critical to tackling this pressing agricultural and environmental problem.

Source: Invasive Animals CRC www.invasiveanimals.com

STORY – 'DUNG TO DIRT' PROJECT TO DELIVER WINS FOR DAIRY FARMS AND ENVIRONMENT

SOUTHERN Queensland dairy farmers will be making continued improvements to soil carbon and soil health on their farms via a new project to be undertaken by the Queensland Dairy NRM program.

The project '*From Dung to Dirt – Improving Soil Carbon and Soil Health on Qld Dairy Farms*' has just been announced as part of the latest funding round of the Caring for our Country Program, run by the Federal Government.

The project, which will be managed by Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation (QDO) on behalf of the Dairy NRM program, will be assisted with \$295,700 in funding, which will ultimately see 40

Queensland dairy farms reduce soil loss and increase soil carbon levels by implementing Best Management Practice on their farms, and increased industry knowledge on best practice across the industry.

QDO CEO Adrian Peake said it would roll out via workshops, field days, on farm trials, case studies, and practical work on farm.

“We greatly appreciate this funding support from the Federal Government for our program. This funding will allow dairy farmers to improve their knowledge and skills in soil management, assess current soil condition and the risks to soil health and the environment, and develop soil and nutrient management plans,” Mr Peake said.

It will lead to improved management practices on about 4000 hectares of farming land.

Mr Peake said the project would deliver positive benefits for farmers and for the environment.

“Dairy farmers are continually raising the bar when it comes to best practice and farm management. This project is another link in the chain to help farmers continue to improve their practices, which is good for the farm bottom line while also delivering environmental outcomes.”

The Dairy NRM Program is a partnership between QDO and Subtropical Dairy, and supported by Dairy Australia.

Source: Queensland Dairyfarmers’ Organisation

EVENTS

BFA ROADSHOWS

World renowned biological consultants Gary Zimmer and Joel Williams tour Australia with BFA

Don’t miss out on the opportunity to learn from two of the world’s most renowned speakers on biological farming presenting in six regional locations in six different Australian states with the BFA Roadshow in October this year.

LOCATIONS AND DATES FOR ROADSHOWS:

Tues 4 Oct: Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall, Mullumbimby, NSW

Wed 5 Oct: Summit Public Hall, Stanthorpe, Qld

Sat 8 Oct: Labertouche Public Hall, Labertouche, Vic

Mon 10 Oct: New Norfolk War Memorial Hall, Hobart, Tas

Wed 12 Oct: Temple Bruer Winery, Strathalbyn, SA

Fri 14 Oct: Baskerville Memorial Hall, Perth, WA

Early Bird Tickets (14 days prior to each event):

\$40 BFA Members

\$60 non-BFA Members

OR tickets booked within 14 days of each event:

\$50 BFA Members

\$70 non-BFA Members

Bookings: W: www.bfa.com.au; T: 1300 331 309; E: events@bfa.com.au

OVERSEAS EVENT:

AGRIPRO ASIA EXPO (APA) HONG KONG

Date: 30 November – 2 December 2011 (Wed – Fri)

Open hours: 12:00 – 19:00

Location: Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre (HKCEC)

Concurrent Event: Agricultural Conference Asia (ACA)

AgriPro Asia (APA) is a specialized B2B trade show for international agricultural trade in Asia.

APA serves as a springboard for international products to Greater China and Asia Pacific Region. Green and organic product is one of the major scopes of the exhibit. Concurrently, there will be the Agri-Conference Asia with professionals from institutes, leading production units, renowned distribution channels, government officials and trade bodies from different countries giving presentations on agri-technology, marketing, trade regulations/ policies and latest industry trends. Topics related to the organic trend are highlighted in the conference.

For more information, please visit www.AgriProAsia.com or contact Ms Wing-Yin Ho on +852 3904 3830 or E: AgriProAsia@verticalexpo.com / or contact AUS Rep Ms Linda Gurney +61 448 800968 or E: linda@wineinternational ltd.com

CALENDAR DATES:

17th Organic World Congress 2011 - South Korea

Wed 28 Sept to Sat 1 Oct

www.kowc2011.org/eng/ (Stand enquiries: BFA ph 07 3350 5716)

Organic Week - Australia -wide

Sat 1 Oct to Sun 9 Oct

www.organicweek.net.au

BFA Biological Roadshow (6 states) - see story above

Tues 4 Oct to Fri 14 Oct

www.bfa.com.au

IFOAM General Assembly 2011 - South Korea

Mon 3 Oct to Wed 5 Oct

www.kowc2011.org/eng/

EVENT CANCELED: Organic Expo and Green Show – Melbourne

Sat 15 Oct to Sun 16 Oct

www.organicexpo.com.au

7th National Grasslands Conference –Holbrook, NSW

Wed 9 to Thur 10 November

www.stipa.com.au

2nd National Food Futures Conference - Hobart, Tasmania

Tues 22 to Wed 23 November

www.phaa.net.au

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