

Biological Farmers of Australia

Media Release

April 22, 2010

AUSTRALIAN ORGANIC & BIOLOGICAL ROADSHOW ARRIVES IN ATHERTON

The Atherton Tablelands region will soon be the focal point for farmers interested in the organic industry thanks to the Biological Farmers of Australia Organic Roadshow.

The May 8 event will see organic producers and agronomists alike hear all the latest news on biological production and organic industry developments from a number of industry representatives, A-grade producers and experts from the Atherton region and around Australia.

Former CSIRO scientist Dr Maarten Stapper of BioLogic AgFood, recently profiled on ABC TV Australian Story and Landline programs is a key speaker at the event. With some 40 years experience, Dr Stapper will provide advice on achieving soil health for profitable farming.

BFA General Manager Holly Vyner says the organic industry is providing an alternative way forward for agriculture, addressing large and growing issues facing the rural sector and environment.

“With many organic producers now with some decades of experience behind them and with an increasing amount of R&D and experience to draw from in Australia and overseas, organic principles are being adopted by every kind of farmer interested in improving yields, quality, farm resilience and decreasing farm inputs through improving the biology of soil,” Ms Vyner said.

With a special focus on family farms, Trust Nature Managing Director, soil expert and key speaker at the event Paul Taylor, will discuss soil biology, making compost and using compost teas, working from the wisdom that beneficial soil microbes make healthy soil and healthy plants and save on the cost of inputs.

Other speakers at the event include Soil Horizons Pty Ltd Managing Director Dr Ross Coventry who has more than 35 years experience working with soils in North Queensland, firstly as a research scientist with CSIRO Division of Soils, Townsville. He is currently the Managing Director of Soil Horizons Pty Ltd, a Townsville-based company that specialises in soil survey, soil and site assessments, and developing soil management strategies for better plant growth.

Ms Vyner went on to say that biological production is becoming highly efficient.

“It is also increasingly being adopted by conventional and organic producers, both large and small,” Ms Vyner said.

“It is also encouraging to see in market research that the average age of organic farmers in Australia is significantly lower than the average farmer and that the average size of organic

farms has increased. This latter result highlights long-term success in utilising organic systems and a trend towards professional farming at a larger scale,” she said.

Atherton Organic Roadshow details:

When: 8.30am – 4.00pm, Saturday May 8, 2010

Where: Atherton International Club, Kennedy Highway, Atherton

Cost: BFA Members \$35 pre-paid; \$40 on the day

Non-members \$45 pre-paid; \$50 on the day

Ph: 07 3350 5716 ext. 232

Fax: 07 3350 5996

Email: events@bfa.com.au / or go to www.bfa.com.au to download a booking form.

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All media are welcome. Media images and interviews will be available for both events. Post- event information will also be available.

For more information contact:

Sarah Wooldrage BFA Media Department Ph: (07) 3350 5716 ext.232

E: sarah.wooldrage@bfa.com.au.