



Aim: To hold a forum addressing sustainable farming practices bringing hope to the future of food production in Australia in this New Era of Farming.

This was an event hosted by NutriHealth International, Manufacturers, Wholesalers and Distributors of NutriSoil LS (liquid spray). It was held in July 2008 at the NutriSoil Production and Education Facility near Wodonga, Victoria.

In feedback from the 2007 NutriSoil Open Day – ‘Soil Revival Forum’, farmers wanted to hear more from other farmers and find out about their results in the paddock. Therefore the day encompassed practical models of broadacre biological farming with farmers as guest speakers from properties in WA and Victoria.

Dr Maarten Stapper was the keynote speaker. He is a Farming Systems Agronomist and one of Australia’s leading scientists and speakers on Biological Farming. He also has an enviable repertoire of farmers keeping him connected with on-farm practices and experiences to prove the theory of the biological approach. To learn more about Dr Stapper visit his website at www.biologicagfood.com.au/.



Dr Stapper joined the panel of speakers at the close of the day to thread together the key learning areas and answer questions from the 200 attendees. This proved to be very popular and will be an area to expand on next year.

This paper is a summary of the day as experienced by nearly 40% or 77 attendees gathered from the rich feedback received after the event. The following table describes the type of farmers who attended.

Farm description	TOTAL	%
Broadacre farmers >100a	55	71%
Hobby farmers <100a	3	4%
Stock / Pasture	57	74%
Cropping	30	38%
Orchards / Horticulture / Nursery	2	3%
Organic farmers	2	3%

NB: Attendees could fall into more than one category

Other reasons for attending

- To learn about NutriSoil
- We are aiming to be chemical free for the health of the soil and ourselves. Wife is a cancer survivor.
- I have been aware that our intensive farming practices must (common sense evaluation) be harming soil and it's organisms - therefore am looking for alternative farming practices.
- Improve pasture quality and reliance on NPK fertilisers.
- Wanting to become completely chemical free and improve soil biology.
- General knowledge re product.
- Find out what others have achieved with NutriSoil in various areas of Australia.
- In the process of improving soil health and increasing soil biology.
- Professional Interest (Echuca Landmark?)
- Need improved pasture.
- Felt I could learn something.



TOP 5 KEY CHANGES

It is commonplace to hear from farmers that are interested in changing to Biological Farming practices, however they don't know where to start! As well as giving feedback on the event, the attendees were also asked to assist in formulating a list of the key changes in practice they have taken or plan to take that are necessary to survive as food producers in the "new era of farming". Their responses mostly fell into 5 categories that represent the top five areas of change with their actual responses below.

1. Changes in Fertiliser / Chemical Application

- To eliminate artificial fertilisers and chemicals completely. At the moment we have cut right back on fertilisers and are using worm juice to replace fertiliser.
- Overhaul of fertilisation system
- Use more natural fertilisers
- Sprays gone out the door
- Less reliant on high analysis fertiliser
- Until the drought breaks we can only make a limited start so we will reduce chemical sprays.
- Ordered NutriSoil to spray on pastures (weeds)
- Keen to update to direct injection on seeder but need some good years before that happens.
- There is such an increase in diseases. A lot of money goes into research to try and find a cure, but very little is spent on finding the reason why. I believe we are over chemicalised. NutriSoil is something that fits into our farming future.
- Sown 2 trial paddocks with inoculated seed. Use as an alternative to super.
- Start to reduce insecticide use and synthetic fertiliser use.
- Use more and more of NutriSoil to enhance our crops, pastures and Lucerne.
- Murray just loves NutriSoil and we've received many comments like "Your farm looks fantastic" "Best farm around"; Why - we can put it down to NutriSoil!
- Have been using NutriSoil for 3 years now and seeing the benefits
- Super potash mix
- I will use NutriSoil if you can either get it organically certified or get it an allowable input status with NASA.
- Probably using less artificial fertilisers and go more organic and let the stubble rot into the ground.

- On second year of Beyond Organics (BYO) where I use organics plus chemical (limited) could go further if finances permitted.
- I have used 500L NutriSoil so far and have seen a difference already and have ordered another 1000L NutriSoil.
- We have already put out 1000L NutriSoil. Investigating disc seeder options.
- If using these natural fertilisers has the result of good pastures, we will use them more.
- Less chemicals and less petrochemical fertilisers.
- Using NutriSoil as seed dressing and a foliar.
- We are in the process of changing to organic principals, no conventional fertiliser.
- I bought 50L of juice but because we have not had rain, I cannot see much benefit.
- First to improve our soil and pastures using less chemicals
- Will focus more on feeding the soil microbes through NutriSoil and compost teas
- Change from super to organic farming

2. Focus on Soil Health

- Bring the soil web back to life.
- Have started changing soil conditions
- Trying to improve carbon in soil.
- Focus on soil health and root growth to increase production and quality.
- Soil bugs
- Continue with biological farming
- Holistic management, focussing of the physical, chemical & biological principles of the soil.
- To maintain groundcover enhance soil biota etc. To be better at growing grass.
- Keep working to improve health of soils
- We need to build soil biology - stop burning stubbles - move toward more sustainable production.
- Stubble retention
- Plans in place to maintain groundcover better and build biology in soil by using more biology enhancing products
- Continue to improve our farm soils and make the most of every drop of water

3. Trialling / Learning / Analysing

- You can't learn by other people doing things - must do yourself.
- Will use that type of product and compare results.
- Have joined 'Farming Secrets' with Hugo D
- We have purchased 2000L which we have sprayed on our Triticale, some wheat and some canola. We have also spread urea on much of wheat and canola - we will compare results, but will continue with NutriSoil on test areas. Very exciting. PS All your staff, particularly Rachelle, have been more than helpful with any queries I have had via phone. Thankyou!:)
- "Reading heaps" Trialling deep wintered plants, direct drilling. Summer crops for better weed control. Putting into action what has been learnt.
- Trial of product - have purchased 200L NutriSoil.
- I plan to become a producer of organic beef and am currently working with 'farming secrets' in the area.
- All under consideration.
- Field application has already begun - more in 12 months.
- Nutrition is always a problem due to cost and return. Always looking and analysing
- Trial NutriSoil
- Am trialling NutriSoil product on pasture and crop paddocks to see how product performs. Will make further assessment once the season progresses
- Make it rain more, study to produce more while controlling the costs, very difficult to do.

4. Grazing Management

- Using pasture cropping to provide extra fodder.
- Rotational grazing (3 attendees listed this)
- Not grazing too hard.
- Resting each paddock, one year in seven and by rotational grazing Lucerne pastures.
- Changes to cell grazing and more productive pastures.
- Intending to keep going along the biological and cell grazing type of management.
- Keeping a green foliage on all paddocks as long as possible!

- More holistic management of the property so that better nutrient cycling occurs. Less fodder conserved and hopefully less vet bills and more family time.

5. Aeration

- On flood irrigated dairy summer pasture, we did lots of Wallace renovating with agro-plough points, better still was a rolling aero way type renovator
- Aeration

WHAT NEXT?

Farmers were asked for suggestions for Future Educational Needs.....

Trials / Evidence

- We need data to show how biological farming compares to traditional farming practices and how to continue with this new system.
- Would like to see trials and testimonials of small BEEF farmers' success of NutriSoil. Maarten Stapper is always excellent - would like him to use his theory for small farm application. Both you and Maarten went North from your venue, can you go South next time where there are hundreds of valleys with many thousands of farmers, many small. I, one of them, would like to see and learn ideas to apply.
- Demonstration sites backed with scientific interpretation of how and why. Great day thank-you.
- I like to see results in paddock but probably not practical at these kind of days.
- We would like to see Dr Maarten Stapper again & like seeing real farm situations & experiences. Can't wait for next one!!
- Would like to get in contact with some of the longer term users of the product.
- Need to see and hear more of the practical results of this, also the revealing of how it effects me, where I live, not about some far distant place.
- The day needs to include results of field trials. MORE SCIENCE PROMOTED as a WAY of EXPLAINING how NutriSoil actually works.
- Have more field days and a variety of alternatives for improving the health and return from the land.

- Trial plots with many trials (different treatments) continued for years with photos of plant health and soil tests of each plot with explanations.
- Maybe some plots of various grasses and legumes with varying rates or different timing applications at different stages of growth. With seasonal changes, Summer cropping will probably have to be addressed. We need to look to pasture species that will handle the lower rainfall and produce quality fodder.
- Actual trial results from varying situations:- Both anecdotal & scientific.
- When WE have transformed our soils, pastures and income; I will happily share our practices, knowledge and experiences at your seminars or on farm field days!
- Field trials - input soil types - input soil balancing consideration.
- More proof. More users experiences.

NutriSoil System

- Would like to see an inspection of the processing methods of producing NutriSoil.
- Continue to progress as you have over the last 4 years. A closer look at your system would be good. Get Maarten Stapper back and other leaders in biological farming.
- More on worm farming process and how NutriSoil is extracted.
- Demonstration at the worm beds on how it is all done would be valuable.
- Would have liked to have seen the actual production process.

Application & Equipment

- Suitability for native grasses. Applications for dryland perennial grasses.
- Soil testing, spray equipment.
- NutriSoil as ongoing soil treatment for / against.
- Being a cereal grower - adaptations for applying NutriSoil - so a talk by the man from Mangoplah would interest us.

Carbon Farming

- Carbon sequestration Vs emission; where our farms sit.
- Maybe Christine Jones on carbon in soils. Thanks for having us.

Relate Farming to Food to Human Health

- Maybe we can find a medico or health practitioner to teach others that keeping our food-chain clean and green is the way to go. Remember the doctor at the first Whorouly. Maybe we can find one locally. Good luck and keep up the good work.
- Relating food to human health.

More of the same

- Keep up your good work, good luck.
- Too busy catching up to you. Looking forward to next seminar.
- Field day signs to facilitate finding the venue.
- 1. Further detail on biological farming. 2. NutriSoil could increase range of products. Eg phosphate rock, humates etc. 3. Perhaps field trials / days.
- Extension into biodynamic principles such as 500 etc.
- I would like to see more follow ups like this last one, your seminar was in my opinion extremely good.
- As biological farmers, are the soil tests indicating that humus is being grown? If not, what do we need to do? What soil life is required to reduce nitrate weeds apart from cropping with VAM and of course NutriSoil?
- Farmers, especially the older ones, need to be further educated and convinced that natural farming methods need to be adopted by most, if not all producers for the health and wealth of all concerned.
- We do like to hear speakers on chemical free farming and have our farmers grow clean food and educate people this way.
- Would you consider trying this educational seminar in March next year?
- July finds a lot of people have "gone North" for the winter - Murray's suggestion of March might find a lot more people would attend. No cows calving either for the dairy boys. No need to hire heaters either - plus less travel after dark for those who travel quite a distance. Might be easier to park vehicles if its not so wet. This year it was great to have wet. Been a while since we have had wet ground!!!
- All soils and farms are different - so getting the right balance with inputs is a challenge. Our livestock show signs of being deficient in magnesium, zinc and copper. The easiest way to get them to plants is presenting a challenge.
- Who are the agronomists to help us with our change to biological cropping program?

WHAT DID YOU LEARN &/OR WHAT WERE YOU CHALLENGED BY?

- The challenge - to do trials at home to evaluate different soil improving products. I was given the incentive today 17-7-08.
- A positive approach to change from past farming practices to a more sustainable and maybe profitable farm!
- Even dryland can benefit from biofarming and NutriSoil.
- Really enjoyed Dr Maarten Stapper. Would like to listen to him again. Have sold 9,200L NutriSoil to clients.
- Learnt about application of liquid nutrients. Question as to whether live (biota) components stay viable (how long/under what conditions?)
- Learnt that crops may be grown successfully without chemicals. Need to care for soils better.
- Good to hear broadacre farmers are using NutriSoil. I bought a 25L container and have done test strips in paddocks and vegetable garden. Haven't noticed a difference yet but still hoping, then I'll come back for more.
- I would like to give it a trial on our farm to see how it comes up.
- The fact that you can inject at sowing, would love to know how to set up and issues with calibration/rate. Also the best way to use as a seed dressing and rate. Did WA farmer use chemical at same time with NutriSoil? Have been doing chemical with NutriSoil for some years now, just wondered if any negative effect.
- We learnt about the foodweb, *disease is a symptom of a sick plant not the cause of it*, how important carbon is to the soil...we could go on forever, we learnt heaps.
- We were very impressed with the feedback from farmers using NutriSoil, particularly the couple from the West and their success in such a low rainfall. However I was challenged to stay awake when Roger Hall spoke. I know he has a lot of knowledge just not a good speaker. Much better to READ his book.
- Getting away from chemical fertilisers and sprays.
- I bought 5L NutriSoil last trip at farmsite for our garden - very good.
- Great to hear from a scientist with the courage to speak the truth without omissions.
- Look outside the square - Maarten Stapper terrific.
- Reinforced what I already knew & re-iterated that knowledge in an interesting way. As always I enjoyed practical committed farmers sharing their wisdom & experience. As always Maarten Stapper was great.
- Would love DVD. Will help me remember to explain to friends what I learnt.
- Reaffirmed the path I am currently on. It is good to meet and talk to some like- minded farmers.

- Most of the session was a great learning experience as most of it was new to me.
- Challenged by the role carbon will and does play in our current and future climate. Result comparison to conventional fertilisers.
- 1. The chance to see NutriHealth operation. 2. The large amount of interest in product and who uses it. 3. Soil science & carbon in soil. 4. Evidence from others that NutriSoil works.
- We have to look after soil health more than we have in the past.
- Graham Maddock presentation on creation of worm juice plus ingredients used.
- Good to hear others experiences who are seeking to have healthy soils.
- I learnt a lot last year but this year most of what I learnt last year really sunk in.
- A good understanding of basics of biological farming - a good starting point on how to start along biological farming system.
- Dr Maarten Stappers talk.
- Heaps - Maarten always makes you think more about what's under the soil before what's above.
- Only doubt - it all seemed too good to be true and life just isn't like that! Everything was positive and of course you then feel you are being sold too (which we know anyway) some realistic negatives with positive solutions would help us skeptics.
- I was impressed by the speakers particularly the information on how NutriSoil over time can balance the soils, allowing the plants to take up their required nutrients and the elimination of many weeds, and healthy stock with a balanced pasture.
- Capped off what I've been thinking of doing. Now I've started with first application 2 weeks ago.
- Explanations of mineralisation in the plants and effects of urea re frosting etc.
- Just how well it works with the soil.
- What a great product NutriSoil is and challenged by how to maximise benefits.
- The importance of looking after the soil and the living organisms within it. Remain committed to make sure we do look after the soil.
- The process of making - NutriSoil - and the value of using it explained by some speakers. Surprised by the number of people in attendance.
- "CHALLENGED" How to make it possible for small beef producer. HOW?
- The simplicity of it all!
- Red leg earthmite cannot digest large sugar cells. Maarten Stapper is a very knowledgeable man and I would like to hear him speak again. I've heard him talk 2 times and could still learn more.

- A lot.
- By the time I got there I knew a lot about the product thanks to Murray Marke - Top Bloke
- Application - more actual local field trials and results.
- We always need more information and proof of a product. Dr Stapper was a highlight for me, as for me science needs to be matched to the physical (demonstrated visual trials in this case).
- The great challenge will be using less chemicals and fertilisers and still improve pastures. Also the use of NutriSoil which I have been using on our trial patch of saltbush. Shall be followed with interest.
- Basically learning what NutriSoil is about.
- Talk by Maartin Stapper was excellent and provided great insight into soil microbiology.
- Learnt small points of interest like adding molasses in with roundup and seed coating with NutriSoil.
- Challenged in adopting different farming methods in reducing costs of inputs, but not compromising yields and how to look after soil better.
- A lot of reinforcing and encouragement. Be conscious of feeding and enhancing the biology in soil.
- Maarten said with biological farming $1 + 1 = 3$. For instance, if you raise pH using lime and aeration, expensive, desirable elements such as potassium will rise. Others will decrease unfortunately but we need to be aware of their impact on production.

OVERALL EXPERIENCE / GENERAL COMMENTS

- Well done on a very well run day. Very informative and will use more times.
- Well worth the visit and talk to like thinking people.
- Excellent - little long on talks. Panel was very good.
- Good to see more farmers looking at a better way of doing fertiliser.
- A very good day. We really can't wait until the next one. Thankyou Rachelle for letting me feed Ellouise in your room. I would have no hesitation in coming back. You made a mother with a child feel very comfortable and I could still listen to everything.
- We came away feeling very confident in trying your product and I've spread the word also. It was a great day and I look forward to the next one. I do believe we have to cut out chemicals from the food-chain.
- Good, worth going to.

- Plan to purchase soon. See how NutriSoil works for me.
- Well worth the effort of attending.
- To see the size of crowd and interest taken.
- Very positive day - great to interact with a large number of people heading in the right direction.
- Good
- A great rewarding & educational day. Left for home all revved up to use the product.
- Very positive and possible.
- Excellent day.
- Very good day. Excellent education. Look forward to DVD to show other farmers I contract for.
- Quite good, will come again. Have to keep learning.
- A good day with a willing crowd to network and help others.
- A great day, helped to give me a better understanding as to soil science, carbon etc. Also gave me an opportunity to meet others who use product and how it is used.
- A beneficial day - glad I came.
- Interesting, learnt a lot about looking after the soil.
- Field day raised a lot of practical issues. Opened door for on-farm thinking.
- An informative time and good to talk with others and share ideas.
- Thanks for the experience, it was a great day. Thanks again.
- I thought the day was very good.
- Always good to come and enjoy the company of the Maddock family.
- I came away completely inspired and my only problem was convincing my colleagues. Unfortunately they wouldn't attend...I did bring them around though!)
- Excellent day - a credit to all involved. "Congrats"
- Would like to hear speakers on intensive small acreage production, rather than Broadacre.
- Lack of toilet facilities. Long line of people reduced time for lunch etc. Very important to fix PROBLEM. Can be hard to hang on.
- Good positive day. Excellent speakers and well managed day. Contacts - met up with like-minded people.

- Having been to previous days as well you tend to hear a lot of the information over and over again but I guess this needs to be said for those attending for the first time.
- Very informative and enjoyable day and encouraging to see so many people showing interest in finding a better way of farming.
- Thoroughly enjoyed the days events, learnt heaps and wish to change a few things on the farm, as a result.
- The whole day was great. Always something to pick up. Please inform me of next venue.
- A very good day.
- We really enjoyed and appreciated the information and seeing where you operate from. And also meet you personally.
- I will be looking for more input on end user results and application and when applied.
- The success of Di Haggerty on biological farming was inspiring as also the vermiculture results. An awful lot of the results of biological & vermiculture are akin to Peter Andrews "Back from the brink".
- Good
- I am now enjoying farming more than I used to 4 years ago.
- Very valuable and enjoyable day with great hospitality. We learned a lot and enjoyed meeting others and seeing the setup.
- I think you squeezed as much into the day as you could. Congratulations on a well run day. Could the man doing the PA have it set up and working the day before so you don't lose any time on the day?
- Well organised day.
- A real eye opener into a different way of farming that can be sustainable and also financially beneficial in the cutting of some input costs.
- A very good day - informative and encouraging.
- Good day to learn something, refresh yourself and meet others facing similar challenges.

INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

10:00AM Registration / Morning tea	
<p>Excellent x 4; Very Good x 4; Great x 3; Good x 11; Ok x 3; Very well organised; Very appreciative; Very satisfactory; Very well done; Well done; 3 x ticks; 1 x tick; 8/10 Quick and easy; User friendly Beautiful; Food always good</p>	<p>A cuppa is always welcome after a couple of hours drive Being on the bus didn't have much time but the cuppa was good Smooth as you could with 200 plus After travelling 2.5hrs very nice; Long wait at registration Relaxed beginning to meet others</p>
10.30AM Opening - Rob Lucas	
<p>Ok x 10; All very interesting; Congratulations x 2; Very good; Good x 4; Tick x 3; Good on you; 5/10 Added interest shows your business is recognised Great to hear you have been rewarded for your efforts Adequate; Short & ok Congratulations on winning best practice award He was good and congrats on your award</p>	<p>Rob spoke well, congratulations on your award Sounded just like another commitment; Had to be done I think you should ask him how to save the saleyards Not really necessary Ok Emphasis on your achievements Bit unnecessary for me; Interesting; Make it brief Well done Rachelle and team of NutriSoil</p>
Welcome Address - NutriSoil Update - Rachelle Maddock	
<p>Excellent x 4; Very good x 5; Good x 10; Ok x 2; 6/10; Tick x 3 2 x ticks; Great; Well done; All very interesting; It set the stage as to where you are up to & start of a great day Friendly – but a little vague at times; Well done Rachelle Very good quick to the point; Very well presented</p>	<p>Rachelle was great; Well presented Expansion and growth of the company is excellent Well spoken; Spoke well Rachelle; Very professional Good to be updated on the company's progress Try to start on time</p>

NutriSoil DVD preview

<p>Excellent x 2; Very good 4; Great x Good x 7; Ok x 4; Tick x 3 Interesting x 2; All very interesting; 8/10; Informative Could provide extra information; As is expected Liked the direct injection on seeder Excellent – showed us real life farm situations Very interesting (first time visitor); Informative – worthwhile Practical experiences – of interest to audience Interesting at least I'm not the only one trying new technology.</p>	<p>Roger Hall's crop produced a harvest, good. Murray and Nola Marke run a very clean and productive farm. They are happy with product. Practical farmers showing range of ideas, for using the product We thought the DVD preview was really good It was a great job done Darren Well done Darren, cannot wait to see final product Ok room for improvement</p>
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11.00am Dr Maarten Stapper

<p>Excellent x 6; Very good x 3; Great, Good x 2; Ok; Tick x 2 Good presentation; Excellent worth the trip over; 9.5/10 Very useful information; Very interesting; Very informative Excellent by far the best and most informative speaker. Use him again if possible; Came to hear Maarten again 3 x ticks Absolute standout really made the day for me Always informative – great to listen to; Excellent presentation Excellent – he was the anchor for the day! Very informative but a little hard to understand This guy is unreal. Learnt the most from him and actual results Always enjoy Maarten – he may have repeated from last year, but he says so much you need to hear it again Loved his enthusiasm!; Excellent – very informative and in laymens terms; Excellent – his accent a little hard to hear Very interesting and challenging, a real eye opener to a different way of farming; I enjoyed his presentation Fantastic – very informative; Spoke far too long</p>	<p>It's good to refresh yourself with the info given, so you don't go down the chemical path; A great and practical speaker Could update presentation some of what has been achieved at other venues Interesting mainly read from power-point, sharing more experiences and experiments would be good I'd like to see DVD again as hard to take it all in PLEASE invite Maarten back again. A really interesting speaker. Shows the blunders of chemical approach. Excellent worth coming to the day just to hear him. Second time heard him speak. Gained a much better understanding of his presentation I need to know more from him on the organic principals With Maarten's knowledge we could have listened to him for a lot longer Good, but being hard to understand, sound should have been louder</p>
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12.45pm Lunch

<p>Excellent x 11; Great x 4; Yum; Yummy x ; Good x 3; Ok x 2; Tick x 3; Well done; 10/10; Delicious; Perfect; Very good Very well catered for; Yummy yummy good tucker; 3 x ticks Enjoyable as always, can't go past the homemade soup. Need a bigger mug; Chewy to beef, soup was good Marvellous; Excellent, very satisfactory; Well done thankyou</p>	<p>Good – regards to John & Debbie. My wedding was his first outside catering job; Soup – 12/10, Roll - beautiful Tasty – simple – very suitable for the day Soup was beautiful; Salad please Ok – beef rolls, excellent soup; Very good, loved the soup Very nice rolls and I had a second cup of soup</p>
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1.15pm Making of NutriSoil - Graham Maddock

<p>Excellent x 2; Great, Great info, Good x 6; 2 x ticks; Ok x 2 Down to Earth. From the heart; Tick x 3; Very interesting Good background info; Interesting; 4/10; Important We would have been interested in how your process in making the NutriSoil juice worked; Gave sound background Interesting, but a little difficult to follow; Great info It is good to see NutriSoil being used successfully on a broad scope. Your system must be working well to keep up to demand Has knowledge but could improve public speaking Good address (could compact information more and fit more in the time allowed); Very interesting and informative Showed us that you have had years of practical knowledge behind the product Not rocket science, just works!; Easy to understand, very good Good to hear how NutriSoil is made; Very good Does NutriSoil have an elemental analysis?</p>	<p>Good – a good chance to explain his company and where to with product Very good – I appreciated what goes into worm magic – composting Good, ideas of the process would be interesting Congratulations Graham on what you are doing. Would like to see DVD to refresh memory Always good to hear why and how NutriSoil came about, especially for the first timer Ok – however could have been condensed. I only wanted to know what it would do for me - sorry Interesting to know what is involved what is in the production of NutriSoil; Needs to be more concise Good but would have liked practical explanation of how NutriSoil is produced</p>
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1.45pm Di Haggerty

<p>Excellent x 3; Very good x 5; Good x 6; Ok; 7/10; Very revealing; Very interesting x 2; Tick x 3; She was good Informative x 2; Interesting; Very interesting and persuasive Very good speaker – very understandable Great to get farmers perspective Good to hear someone from other side of country and completely different soil and weather Very interesting. Wouldn't mind printout of talk Coating their seed with NutriSoil as they load trucks and no super to handle, what a labour and time saver. Seed would have a great kick start and spray later as required. Very informative and practical on broadacres Good to hear of experience of using NutriSoil The more people share experiences the better Excellent - what we need to know – field experience and where NutriSoil is used across Australia</p>	<p>Excellent – great to see family so keen to try beyond the accepted; Good to hear of their experiences A good presentation showed that we all share similar problems. They are making progress in a difficult climate and soil type. Along with Dr Stapper the Haggerty's were and inspiration. The challenge they face with farming on a low annual rainfall. Very interesting – genuine hard working and down to earth farmers; She was great – despite the hiccup re the airport They are doing some great work in trialling and presented well Di spoke well on her farming practices, we found her talk very interesting, reinforcing our belief in not having to drench stock. Amazing, good to have some first-hand experience or say in broadacre farming and also results they are getting. If they can grow crops on 100mm in crop rainfall, then we can do better with what we receive. Great to hear from someone in such marginal country</p>
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2.15 Roger Hall

<p>Excellent, Tick x 3; Good x 6; Ok x 3; Very positive; Informative Back to basics-low input costs are giving good results & returns. Roger – total believer – good. Had some obvious observations that maybe none of us considered Some interesting ideas – created some controversial thought processes; Very good - Bought his book online. Shows the potential NutriSoil has for even better results with</p>	<p>Controversial speaker but interesting Excellent, I bought his book and would recommend it Need to see again to refresh memory He was boring, too much political A practical researcher who was able to grow a payable crop during a severe drought Veered away from topic of biological farming – did not fit in</p>
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<p>better rainfall. Agreed with all his other comments. We found him very negative and very political Gets off the subject. Hard to stay alert. Getting your soil right can be so hard. Should enter politics – spot on with his comments Ok, too many motherhood statements. Would be better to stick to soil; Low spot of day; Lost his way; Too long and irrelevant He only had time to skim over a number of interesting topics that we could have heard him speak about in depth</p>	<p>Could do without Roger, negative effect, got off the subject too much; Not all that relevant to the days topic Went off subject, became too political about subjects I did not come to hear about; A little disappointed and got off track Poor content, silly and ill informed, political statement, did not fit in with an otherwise professional program Boring and slightly negative; I'm sorry but he left me cold His info reminded me of a procedure to follow in order to improve pasture, crop quality.</p>
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3pm Panel	
<p>Excellent x 2; 3 x ticks; Great, Very good x 4; Good x 2; Tick x 3; Very interesting; Interesting; Very informative x 2; Ok Worked well; Not long enough; Rather a bit long winded Answered a broad range of questions very well. Was well done, thought of a couple when it was all over Very good – boy those WA broadacres are huge. Spraying NutriSoil in the evening was interesting The fellow in the red jacket was all over the place with his comments; Excellent - good way to learn Needs to be tightened up; Helpful and essential Good to answer individual questions that people had</p>	<p>Yes – great idea worked well; Well run and worthwhile Ok – hard to take questions from large gathering One in red jacket was so-so. Others good Some good questions and answers – Muz a bit quiet Very very helpful – answered a lot of my questions but I still have more? This was an excellent way to finish the afternoon. Not enough time devoted to this part of day Ok, maybe more questions from audience Could have Maarten answer all the questions. He would answer the questions quickly</p>

FACILITATION & LOGISTICS

I. Was the day well facilitated / organised?

Selected from feedback form	Numbers	% of replies
Great, everything ran smoothly	51	66%
Mostly pretty good, except for...	5	6%

Mostly pretty good, except for...

- ❖ Too much PR and theory and not enough on details of application in different circumstances.
- ❖ Main speaker spoke for far too long
- ❖ One radical speaker

If I was running the day I would have...

- ❖ Apple slice and cream for sweets. That would top dinner off superbly
- ❖ Was pretty cold I'd keep the back door shut
- ❖ More explanation of time "tie-up" between chemical fertilisers and NutriSoil
- ❖ Not have Roger Hall on the program

Comments / Suggestions

- ❖ Would like to have seen the compost heaps and learnt what actually went in them - but realise it was probably too wet
- ❖ To show slides or pictures of locally demonstrations of the product, different rates etc.
- ❖ Thanks for including the day program
- ❖ Opportunity to ask question after each speaker. I realise time is an issue
- ❖ Improve registration process as participants already booked should be easy to improve. Still have not received tax receipt.
- ❖ Well organised
- ❖ After lunch - straight onto discussion
- ❖ Maybe an earlier start to allow for more question time and general discussion at end of day
- ❖ Dr Maarten Stapper was a bit heavy, for first time people introduced to NutriSoil
- ❖ If possible have more Maarten Stappers on your list of speakers
- ❖ If you had registrations and morning tea so the main speaker could have more time Extra toilet (portable) facilities would have been more convenient

II. How did you find out about the day

Selected from feedback form	Numbers	% of replies
Invite in Mail/Email from us	30	39%
Invite forwarded through other network	3	4%
The Border Mail (Country Mail)	12	16%
The Southern Farmer	1	1%
The North Eastern Farmer	7	9%
NutriSoil Website	1	1%
Friend told me	14	18%
Other	2	3%

III. How did you find the equipment for learning?

Selected from feedback form	Numbers	% of replies
Great wouldn't change a thing	40	52%
Great but could you...	17	22%

Great but could you...

- ❖ ...go further into the equipment, mainly for application
- ❖ Would like a bit more detail on application of NS - maybe on brochure. A plot of WITH NS and one without might be good
- ❖ ...get better quality meat. Was very chewy and couldn't get it down. Got teeth missing, I probably should be culled.
- ❖ It was fairly cold at the back but other than that excellent venue
- ❖ ...have had a talk on how worm pits are going
- ❖ heating was a problem - fumes from gas heaters made audience uncomfortable
- ❖ ...more toilet facilities and ability to see trials

- ❖ Some sort of pasture comparisons walk
- ❖ Increase toilets and catering delivery
- ❖ Heat the shed up, I was freezing
- ❖ ...perhaps have extra toilet
- ❖ Audio equipment malfunctions plus handing over mini microphones distracting
- ❖ ...hear from more people like the WA couple
- ❖ Put a bit more gravel on carpark and surrounds
- ❖ Have a bit more information on application techniques
- ❖ Pick a warmer day
- ❖ Tell us more about how the worm beds are set up, the feed ration, how the liquid is collected etc.

Challenging because....

- ❖ I did not know it was worm juice
- ❖ Probably rent a couple of portaloos?
- ❖ Was rather cool. Reduce area to be heated and maintain airflow. Maarten rushed through some of his material

Comments / Suggestions

- ❖ Food was excellent - actually healthy cakes
- ❖ I would like to hear more about the manufacturing of the product
- ❖ The venue was fabulous
- ❖ Change the form of heating or timing
- ❖ A lot of talking is not as good as some visual evidence
- ❖ On a cool day, I would like to see a break at about the time you spoke Rachelle approx 11am. Just to stand up and stretch the legs.
- ❖ With such large crowds more toilet facilities are really needed as too much time wasted waiting in line
- ❖ Excellent - catering was very very good
- ❖ Maybe show us some soil being treated by NutriSoil
- ❖ Application techniques used by others
- ❖ Was most interesting hearing from Di Haggerty. I only wish there were more Dr Maarten Stappers around
- ❖ The venue was comfortable with the heaters this year