

WHAT FARMERS SAY ABOUT BIOLOGICAL FARMING:

*“The Way of
the Future”*



Pic courtesy Murray Marke Oct '07

**REPORT ON
SOIL REVIVAL FORUM / NUTRISOIL OPEN DAY
25TH JULY 2007**

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1. EVENT SUMMARY

“Industrial agriculture is financially unsustainable, environmentally degrading and produces substandard product.”

NutriSoil Soil Revival Forum attendee

On the 25th of July 2007, approximately 140 farmers attended a NutriSoil Open Day and Opening of the newly constructed NutriSoil Production and Educational Facility at Whytes Rd Baranduda (near Wodonga).

The day consisted of morning and midday tours of the Vermiculture (worm) windrows used to make NutriSoil that were developed and are maintained by Graham Maddock. Rachele launched the new-look NutriSoil website that promises to be an educational resource for farmers and those looking for information on NutriSoil and/or biological farming.

“We’re not against conventional farming as a whole, but it’s the overuse and miss-use of high input farming that has played a big role in causing soil imbalances,” Graham Maddock.

DR MAARTEN STAPPER

Most of the day was dedicated to keynote speaker, Dr Maarten Stapper, (former CSIRO scientist). In the morning, Maarten gave an overview of the concepts of biological farming followed after lunch by a slideshow of successful examples of these concepts in practice.

Max Maddock complimented Maarten’s talk with a session on NutriSoil trials including a number of testimonials from attending farmers of their experiences using NutriSoil. After sitting for a long period, everyone enjoyed stepping outside for a Soil Audit where Maarten analysed and explained a range of soil, plant and root structures and answered questions. The afternoon was completed with a final session by Maarten on the “Direction of Science and Practice”.

The official opening of the purpose-built NutriSoil Production and Educational Facility was carried out by Cr Rodney Wangman, Mayor, City of Wodonga. He was proud to be involved in such a positive venture for business and sustainable farming in the region. A brass plaque was unveiled for a permanent memoir of the event.

FEEDBACK

118 registered attendees were sent a follow-up survey to comment on the event and to offer their views on biological farming. Sixty-seven percent of the farmers who attended the ‘Soil Revival Forum’ responded to the survey resulting in a collection of highly valuable data. For easier reading, minor grammatical changes were made and key words from farmers were used to group the responses under headings.

Please take time to consider the words & views expressed by some of our key broadacre farmers of NSW/VIC.

2. FARM DESCRIPTION / TYPE OF PROPERTY

Farm Description	Numbers	% of replies
Broadacre farmers >100a	45	67%
Hobby farmers <100a	12	18%
Stock / Pasture	59	88%
Cropping	22	33%
Orchards / Horticulture / Nursery	13	19%
Home Gardeners	9	13%

*Forum attendees could fall into more than one category.

Reasons for attending also included...

- Interested in going organic
- Stop the use of all chemicals we are using on the property
- Find out more about NutriSoil
- Advisor to organics industry
- Catch up with NutriSoil developments and hear Maarten's thoughts
- Interest in biological farming, also love gardening and hear Maarten Stapper speak
- General interest and to talk to other people
- Correct past problems and help with drought recovery
- Better alternative to chemical fertilisers
- Very interested in soil biology
- Can't see any future in pouring pesticide on landscape. Over 40 years, still doing it and not achieving anything
- Wanting to go organic
- To listen to Dr Stapper; learn more about your product; to introduce it as a co-product in our recommendation
- Professional interest (accountant)

3. WHAT DOES BIOLOGICAL FARMING MEAN TO YOU?

"Sustainability"

"Sustainability"!! Biology is the driving force of soil chemistry (mineral availability) and physics (soil structure). Industrial agriculture is financially unsustainable, environmentally degrading and produces substandard product. Biological farming is the way of the future – the way it has been for millions of years until man thought he knew better!

Everything. Healthy soils, healthy plants, animals and people etc. It's what we've been working at for the last 9 years.

The only sustainable way to go. "No-brainer"

Hopefully sustainable farming

Sustainable farming with healthier soils.

Everything

Very important to the sustainability of our enterprise.

Preparing the soil for a sustainable future.

“Increasing Quality Production”

It means a way of improving the product we grow and the soil to maximise production without draining the soils nutrients.

Quality production whilst initially improving the farm ecosystem and then maintaining it in a truly sustainable way.

After "getting by" for several years with no chemical use and low inputs, I am hopeful that by using NutriSoil LS & better soil management I can improve soil health for better long term pasture and produce.

Have tried biodynamics some years ago. I think you are on a winner with NutriSoil to get the soil organisms working back in our soils and producing healthier products.

“Decreasing Chemicals & Input Costs”

Decreasing the input costs to our farming enterprise.

I am more and more interested in reducing inputs and increasing biological activity in the soil and question if we increase biological activity in soil will reduce NPK fertilisers, insecticides etc. and use products like NutriSoil. Do we need to continue to apply products like lime, rock phosphate? Have applied rock phosphate last 3 years and biology added.

Decreased use of chemical based fertiliser. Getting the soil working properly.

This is very important. There are too many chemicals causing loss of natural species eg bees for pollination.

Chemical free or limited use ok but am worried at the nutrient deficiencies developing. Continuous cropping creating problems. Have been mineral feeding sheep for 20 years, convinced way to go. Seed dressing a must. Have poor germination problems now.

Chance to get out of rat race and get chemicals out of food chain.

“Healthy Soils”

Healthy friable soil instead of concrete. Thankyou for the chance.

It means looking after the soil as naturally as you can and preparing it for our next generation and educating them along the same path.

A means of reclaiming our soil for the benefit of humanity.

Biological farming is not using synthetic products which acidify the soil but rather biological farming is looking after your soil by applying good bacteria and natural fertilisers to re-mineralise and balance the soil resulting in a healthy environment and enabling you to grow healthy crops and cattle.

NutriSoil from here on in.

“Working with Nature”

Working with nature not against it.

Farming the way nature intended it. Soil organisms living in balance and ensuring the soil recovers adequate natural fertiliser. (NutriSoil, Lime and aeration) PS We have been liming and aerating for 10 years and see the difference especially with irrigation.

"The environment of nature is changing and all plants and animals must respond". Biological farming allows the very basis of nature to play its intended part in this process of change. Being in touch with nature. Getting away from using so many pesticides etc.

It is our plan to slowly get our ground right. I heard a quote "the earth can do very nicely without us but we can't do without the earth".

Preservation of old fashioned farming values

I'd like to get back to natural farming.

Farming with minimum. No chemical additives, herbicides. Building the soil back to its best capability through natural means.

“Our Future”

Survival of our race and planet!

I am just starting to learn about it but think it holds great merit for the future.

The only way to go and days like these help speed the process.

A way of the future for farming if we are to achieve profits from the land and leave it better than we started.

The only way that will be left to use on this planet.

My family's future!

The future.

The way of the future.

The only way to go.

Everything, it is the way of the future.

“Changing Farming Practices”

I have been moving slowly into biological farming using another product similar to yours for about 4 years now and have found it to be working well but I'll be using yours in the future with trials. Thankyou.

Could very well be the way I am tending (to go).
Need to see some examples of the trials that are now on the go.

We have been conventional farmers but would like to make the transition to biological farming.

Using microbe friendly products, less chemical fertilisers and ultimately less costly inputs and more profitable farming system. Farm not being run for other people to profit from your 12 months work.

The way we all must go. Interesting ongoing learning. I was one of the first groups at uni to learn about ecology in the '60s. Now in retirement putting some of what I learnt and then thought (in schools) into practical effect.

We are on the journey but have a long way to go.

Something very interesting and would like to explore in more detail.

“Our Health”

A healthier way of life for us and consumers of our produce.
Thanks for your enthusiasm and support.

It means everything. It contributes to all aspects of our lives.
Good health and well-being for all.

Hopefully better health for plants, animal and people.

It's the only way to go for the long term of farming.
Long term health and well-being and humanity.

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

“Time to Change”

Is this the change of direction I will look at more intensely? Have not been sure for some time that conventional farming will be sustainable in the future. Costs are a large factor.

Hopefully there is a better way to go and I believe NutriSoil can be a huge benefit. I intend to spray our trees at bud burst and then again mid season. They will be treated again before leaf fall. Would you recommend any other program?

Less diseases in all concerned. We need to go back to the old fashioned way of farming.
Back to basics using biological practices.

We learnt that biological farming is worth some trials on our farm.

Need to cull numbers to achieve Dr Stapper's method. So financially it will be tough for a few years. Keen to do more trials with your NutriSoil (worm juice). Dederang area - how early best for applying NutriSoil?

How to change - direction (challenge). It has to eventually be done by Ahhhh....

I learnt that to make a difference it will take a while before you will see real changes.

Surprised at the number of people attending. We are all concerned at the fertiliser cost, concerned at too much urea especially affecting stock health. Grass and chemical resistance appearing - enormous issues facing agriculture down the track.

Calcium nitrate as a foliar spray. Something I would like to know more about. Particularly if it can be used with NutriSoil.

Also if anything else can be added at same time, eg. Microbes (bac/fungi).

Being a retired farmer there are many things I should have done differently over the past 30 years but now I can talk to others and improve my home gardening skills.

Overstocking and how to manage the grasses.

“Reduce Pesticides / Herbicides”

If you get your system working properly you can take out all pesticides or herbicides.

I really was surprised about the chain of events affecting soil and biological organisms through extended use of synthetic chemicals and fertilizers!!

Muzz learnt why NutriSoil keeps red-legged earthmite off the paddock by spraying NutriSoil. Nola learnt a lot more as she can concentrate at lectures better than Muzz can.

“Reinforcing & Invigorating”

As I have been to a few forums on biological farming, I found this forum reinforcing others I have been to.

Great to have knowledge reinforced. But the problem remains - the time it takes to change mainstream farming before it is too late.

Maarten Stapper is inspiring and I came home feeling fully enthused again after hearing him talk. I heard him last year at a biological symposium in Seymour so it was great to have the opportunity to hear him speak once more. It was also good to be around like minded people. Thanks.

Encouraged by the attendance and interest of so many others. Now have a greater understanding of the role of science and certainly challenged by the need to be more aware of what is happening on our farm. Congratulations on organising the forum & for your research & development of NutriSoil.

Confirmed absolutely that NutriSoil is the way to go.

Not a lot. But reinvigorated. Have heard Maarten before and have been soil building / organic for a number of years.

We came for Maarten's address and then had another appointment in the afternoon. Found Maarten's address very good - some new ideas stimulating reinforcing ideas and invigorating to keep going.

It has reinforced what I have been doing for the past 17 years. Given me more tools to enhance the progress on our farm. I follow the principal healthy soils etc.

The day brought everything I have known from Ag College together to make a lot of sense for what we are trying to achieve.

Reinforced my thoughts.

It reinforced the way I was brought up in England.

Learnt a great deal and confirmed much I considered and already knew.

Further cementing of the soil chemistry - I like to get to the base and work up.

Comforting to know that an acknowledged scientist moves on the same lines of thought as myself (self taught).

Already a convert but was extremely pleased with Maarten's interpretations and explanations.

I learnt a lot of things from Maarten & also had a lot reinforced and far too much to mention here and I think we are challenged every day by DPI (great GM issue) but we must be as producers. Keep as close as we can get by using natural fertilisers or additives, humate or foliar sprays.

Heaps, great networking. I have had dealings with Gwyn Jones, learn something new all the time.

“Importance of Soil Health”

The importance of soil health. Having everything in balance.

That we should all strive to improve our pastures and soils in general.

Learnt biological is an alternate way to farm and with the help of NutriSoil to achieve results eg improve your farm soil health.

We found the relationship between live soils and nutrient values in food very interesting. Darren is very keen to now establish a self sufficient vege garden. A great and exciting challenge.

I learnt lots on biological farming and soil health etc.

Learnt much on soil health, plant growth and sustainability.

I would have liked to bring a soil sample and let Maarten look at it and advise on its condition.

The importance of keeping our soils in a healthy state leading to healthy plants and animals etc.

Focus more on what is happening in the soil.
Be prepared to experiment or do your own trials.

Learnt more about particular weeds that come with mineral deficiency and lots more on soil.

“Importance of Soil Biology”

I learnt more about agro bio diversity and its challenges.

I learnt a lot more about soil biology giving me more understanding of soil improvement.

Biological soil testing and what to look for.

Much greater understanding about plant growth and what to look for in the paddock.
Reaffirming knowledge about interactions between soil organisms and plants.

“More to Learn”

I would like to know more of what is required of the worm cycle and do's and don'ts within this cycle. Graham did mention insecticides are a no-no.

Heaps (learnt) and (challenged by) all.

We know what we are aiming for but we are still unsure of how to get there.

(only) A day but realise that people coming from (far) away like a one-day format. Unfortunately I missed a lot of the talk (funeral) but enjoyed the practical look at plants. Enjoyed networking finding out what people were doing. Perhaps a forum could be set up where people could add comments/experiences/suggestions to keep learning.

5. OVERALL EXPERIENCE / GENERAL COMMENTS

“Informative” – “Interesting” - “Worthwhile”

Very educational - Good to mix with folk that are open minded and looking at the possibility of change.

Informative. This was my first time at a field day like yours. I found it very informative. I enjoyed the day very much. Def got my \$20 worth.

Went home after lunch because of other commitments but I had already received a huge amount of info to work with. Filled 3/4 of notepad supplied.
It's the most notes I've ever written!

Very informative day

My second annual open day. Very interesting and informative.

Great informative day with good speaker.

Learnt a lot about biological farming and the methods that can be applied to our farming system.

Considering you are still setting (up), the lack of windrows not a problem. Most interesting to see what you have done and to see last year where you started. An enjoyable informative day.

Very worthwhile day even though I had to travel for a couple of hours to get there.
I felt I picked up and learnt a lot over the day.

Very worthwhile, however I was weary towards the end of the program as I am unaccustomed to sitting and listening for extended periods such as this.

A great learning experience. Takes a drought to get us all moving.

A very informative and well run event. A credit to all involved!!!

Very informative day which was well presented.

Wonderful to see more and more conventional farmers seeking and looking for another direction. Will recommend to others very highly.

Dr Maarten Stapper an excellent speaker but three or four sessions in one day makes it hard to retain the many topics he covered.

Very enjoyable and informative - didn't come away with understanding of how NutriSoil develops its potency as compared to worm juice or how it retains it's vitality when bottled. But I may have missed this info when I was absent.

A very pleasant and informative day.

Very interesting day. It reenergised me to continue to do what was seen to be a bit left field when I started (to others in the valley).

Especially interested in your grain treatment product.

Well worth the day. I would go to one (again) tomorrow. We can all learn something from those sort of days.

Great day - brought 2 of my clients and they said they learnt a lot.

All well worth the time.

A day that was well run and very educational.

Gained more confidence to persist with biological inputs in the farming system.

Very interesting.

We enjoyed the day and learnt lots.

“Thankyou” – “Well Organised” – “Excellent Day”

Great to see a company trying to change the way we go now. Need more information on costing and other trials.

Food and catering was first class and new buildings were a treat. Could have had more time with Graham and Max and other users.

It was a terrific day, I'm pleased I attended. Am most impressed with your new facility and your progress of the past 15 years. Maarten Stapper is a very good presenter of his and other scientists research. I wish you every success with your venture.

The whole day was great.

Congratulations. An interesting day. Well run. Good networking. Food good. Practical - like to have the handout to read later and take in (maybe have available on the day).

It was a very interesting & practical day & it is good to see a family business as yours having a go. Wish you all the best for the future.

Food and service excellent.

Overall it was good.

Compliments to you on giving us the opportunity of meeting up with Maarten and demonstrating your product which we will follow up.

I'm worried as to how you are going to keep up with the manufacturing of NutriSoil.

Thankyou for a fantastic day. You put a lot of work into it and it was very well done. I got so much out of Dr Maarten's talk. Loved his 'creepy critters'. Would have loved to see how you

collect and produce NutriSoil. Plants in my garden also say "thanks". Cabbages and silver beet and onions all standing tall and proud. Farm looks fantastic as well. Thankyou Graham for turning a negative experience into a positive then sharing it with everybody. God bless.

Great inspirational session.

A well presented day - congratulations. I'm sorry to have missed the afternoon sessions with Maarten. Will definitely try and attend any future days you may organise.

Very good and would attend any future soil forums.

Excellent because we were receptive to that line of thinking.

Left too early. Look forward to next years event.

You did a really good job and put on a very enjoyable day. Maarten was great, we found him easy to understand. He had put a lot of time and effort into his talk, it was excellent. Looking forward to coming again if you have the same next year.

I was only there for part of the day but was very impressed.

Overall - excellent day amongst like minded people.
Maarten at times, was a little too technical.

Very good.

A top day - well organised, very informative. Maarten Stapper is an inspiration. The general integrity of the "Maddock Clan" stood out.

The whole day was a great experience and the information was so exciting for our farmers of the future. The young farmers are so fortunate to have all this information at their feet.

Terrific

A good day out.

Well organised and friendly day.

A really terrific day overall. Hope there is more of it.

Great day really enjoyed myself but too long a day. Lost most people about 3pm. Could have started earlier and had a total optional tour as the break.

“Want to Learn More”

Are the answers to questions from the field day on your website yet? Please reply to email rachelbohm@hotmail.net.au. Use reusable envelopes for questionnaires.

Would like to see more trials and more on how NutriSoil is made.

I enjoyed the lectures and discussion but would really enjoy more soil samples and more information on how a "healthy" soil resists pests and diseases that grow on top of grasses.

Enjoyed the day. If another one comes up like this one let me know. Would like to hear Dr Stapper again to refresh the memory.

6. INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

9:00am Registration / Morning tea	
<p>Good x 7; Great x 3; Excellent x 6; Tick x 2; ALL GOOD; Ok; Thankyou; Fantastic; Spot on Great after a long trip & early start Some real coffee would be good Food throughout was very good Great scones Very delicious Courteous and friendly Practical and welcoming Need the recipe for the cheese scones</p>	<p>Late but very good No problems encountered. Tea & scones were great Well organised x 2 Great food all day well organised Adequate 10 out of 10 Very good - lovely scones Warm welcome excellent hospitality and gathering</p>
9:30am Operational tour 1	
<p>Never ever got to walk by the actual process Very interesting x 3; Good x 7; Tick x 3; Informative x 3; Interesting; Great; Very good; 10 Would have like to have seen more on production side. Good, although I would like to have been told of the production cycle in more detail. Not in-depth enough Perhaps a microphone for outside Missed 1st one and caught lunchtime one. Good overview of background but didn't get to detail of system</p>	<p>Good but could have told us more about actual worm beds and how they work Could be better flowing. More practical Most attended but I chose to wait until later. We want to come and have a further look at making NutriSoil Interesting to see new set-up Understood easily I would have liked a close inspection of the worm windrows. Interesting -would like to have a look in the beds. Bit pushed for time with opening.</p>
10:00am Welcome address - Website launch	
<p>Ok x 2; Great x 2; Good x 11; Very good x 4;Excellent x 2; Tick x 3; Informative Well spoken & easy to understand Well presented All went smoothly Will look at website for info now firstly I was late Beautiful Keep it short and to the point Friendly and welcoming</p>	<p>Warm and interesting Well informed Very good - you'll make a good business manager She'll go a long way... Relaxed to the point Friendly and welcoming Well presented Provided necessary housekeeping info.</p>
10:30am Dr Stapper - Soil Fertility Management	
<p>Ok x 2; Great x 4; Very good x 4; Excellent x 7; Very informative x 3; Informative x 3; Tick x 4 Brilliant An energised and easy to understand informative speaker Great attitude and knowledge Great knowledge on biological farming A great basis for understanding why we should improve soils. So much information to consider 12 out of 10 Good interesting long maybe a break in the middle</p>	<p>Excellent speaker and very informative He had me captivated right from the start. Fab speaker Clear thorough but a bit long Very interesting to see someone doing something for the soils from a different approach Gained some very good information Well constructed delivery and frank acknowledgements of problems with scientific approach Dragged on a little on the same point a bit much. He did get the point across</p>
12:30pm Lunch	
<p>Ok; Good x 6; Very nice x 2; Lovely x 2; Beautiful x 2; Great x 4; Fantastic x 2; Delicious x 2; Excellent x 6; Good x 6;</p>	<p>Delicious and quite adequate Loved the soup Pumpkin soup. Saviour for THIS vegetarian.</p>

Unbelievable, Great yummy; Double tick; Tick, Tasty, Great meal Soup was good. Roast beef was very tough. Top stuff - great tucker well organised Plenty and friendly Soup brilliant rolls soggy beef very average	Very good and non meat option would have been nice. Excellent - self serve and wood heating Great soup Simple tasty plenty available Great soup very nice lunch
1:00pm Operational Tour 2	
Same as first I think I missed this Great; Good; Very good; Interesting; Tick x 2 Didn't appear to happen. Maybe we were in the wrong place. Did not attend Repeat (not in-depth enough) Ok some windrows like last year would have been interesting Too short	Because of opening ceremony was shortened but quite good. Missed it somehow, talking Did not really happen!! Attended but cut short due to timetable Must have missed this LEFT EARLY NA - Still enjoying lunch – yummy Explained well
1:30pm Opening Ceremony – Cr Wangman	
Good x 8; Tick x 2; Ok x 2; Great; Pleasant; Energetic; Entertaining; Very Entertaining; Boring Really nice; Friendly; Necessary, Very Interesting; Excellent; Well done Left after lunch unfortunately Quite bright and humorous Well done nice fellow. Never seen him before Very funny man Excellent - the family touch for clients to relate to.	Did an excellent job Informal friendly and sincere Congratulations on your opening Not long winded. Friendly in keeping with day. Lovely to be a part of this Well done and congratulations Great to see your business expanding "He can talk" or express himself Interesting - glad he's your councillor not mine
1:40pm Field Examples - Dr Stapper	
Good x 8; Informative x 3; Great x 2; Interesting x 3; Excellent x 3; Very good x 2; Tick x 3 Very informative; Very interesting x 2; Ok, Great stuff Good one-on-one discussions Good plant discussions	I left then as I had to get home; Had to leave early unfortunately; Sorry I had to leave Dragged on - question time dragged on needed inside time. Help understand what our soils need to be like
2:00pm NutriSoil Field Experience - Max Maddock	
Good x 9; Informative x 4; Very informative; Interesting x 3; Very good x 3; Tick x 3; Good to listen to other people's experiences Well presented with good interaction with product users. Very good - testimonials were very informative Excellent always of interest back in paddock situation	Needed to shorten his speech. Enjoyed the farmers comments but needed speech to shorten. Very interesting to hear from other farmers We need to hear more of it Good farmers input was excellent Good to hear farmers talk of their experience. Ok good to hear about other experiences Could have more
2:45pm Afternoon Tea	
Ok x 2; Great x 2; Very nice; Good x 4; Very good x 3; Excellent x 4; Tick x 2, Great cakes x 2; Welcome; Satisfying; Sufficient; Lovely Had to leave unfortunately; Had to leave; We headed for home and thanks; Had to go.	I'd lost concentration Needed to have plain water on tap. Maybe different teas? Departed with 10 x 25L drums Very good thankyou Well catered for.
3:30pm Soil Audit - Dr Stapper	
Good x 4; Informative x 4; Very Good x 4; Very Informative; Tick x 2; Excellent x 2 Very interesting. Learnt most here	Question time dragged on Identify the difference between a good soil and bad soil quickly

Very interesting; Interesting Had to leave; Missed due to time constraints Difficult to see	Good practical info on how to be more aware of what is happening More samples - people should handle
4:00pm Direction of Science & Practice - Dr Stapper	
Good x 5; Excellent; Tick; Informative; Very good and informative Very good - but tried to fit too much in. Pushed for time A little long winded (but interesting) Too much info late in the day. Food for thought	This is certainly the only way for agriculture to go. Left early; Had to leave early For me - the best session - encouraged new approaches. Accurate directions we should do are needed Good sorry I was getting brain tired by then

7. DR MAARTEN STAPPER - KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Feedback	Numbers	% of replies
Informative	50	75%
Mind-blowing	11	16%
Practical	44	66%
Overwhelming	10	15%
Confusing	2	3%
Friendly	39	58%
Easy to understand	40	60%
Articulate	35	52%
Difficult to understand	6	9%
A good listener	23	34%
Energized	37	55%
Easy to talk to	31	46%
Able to develop rapport with audience	46	69%
Addressed questions thoroughly	44	66%

Needs to....

- move on more quickly, do not dwell, time is important in these workshops, be more concise.
- shorten it maybe, condense it down for a one-day talk.
- have more people listen to his positive passion...
- use a clip on microphone.
- develop application examples, more photos / sites.

Comments / Suggestions

- He was able to put his theories into practical examples which impressed me.
- Maybe some real examples of transformation would help people to get started.
IE: This land was... the farmer did... In year one...year two.... And this is the current condition of land etc.
- Having attended two seminars, 1 one-day and 1 three-days with Arden Anderson I found Maarten gets his message across in a matter that you take home ideas that you can try compared to Arden.
- Maarten's accent made it difficult to hear at times, specially when he waived the microphone about.
- Needed more time to talk with him.
- Sometimes one had to listen carefully because of his accent. Make it over two days.
- What he spoke about my father said the same thing.
- It was easier to hear people talk without the audio. Perhaps the size of the building caused some problems.
- I found it difficult to absorb all the information in a day.
- Difficult to understand some words.
- Was good to have break-up of theory and practical aspects. Morning was a bit long.

- I would think that the whole day was a great success. I thank you all for the opportunity to be present.
- Very knowledgeable speaker. Accent a little hard to understand.
- Overwhelming in the right way. Very well presented. VERY informative. VERY practical.
- I had heard a lot of good reports about Maarten but hadn't heard him speak or met him until your day.

8. FACILITATION & LOGISTICS

I. WAS THE DAY WELL FACILITATED/ORGANISED?

Information Source	Numbers	% of replies
Great, everything ran smoothly	64	96%
Mostly pretty good, except for....	2	3%

Mostly pretty good, except for....

- Lunch time tour should NOT have been included. No time for it and we missed out all together
- I have a hearing problem with the base being the hardest to hear with.

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

- Use clip on microphones
- More farmers who use biological practices or use NutriSoil to speak of their experiences
- Keep doing what you need to do "its your business"

Comments / Suggestions

- Catering was excellent
- A little cool in the shed at times, extra heating
- The program for the day ran away a little at the finish
- Would have had the welcome address at 9.30 & operational tours after lunch and end of day.
- I would have appreciated a program before hand maybe on the website. It was a bit long.
- A lot to pack in.
- The whole family did a great job. Keep it going
- Thankyou for the day
- Is there any publication that can take one through the change "step by step"? *****
- Morning talk could have been split into two evenly timed sessions
- Day ran very smoothly
- Great numbers probably needed two coffee bars

II. HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THE DAY?

Information Source	Numbers	% of replies
Invite in Mail/Email from NutriHealth	55	82%
Invite fwd thru other network	5	7%
The Border Mail (Country Mail)	6	9%
The Land	0	0%
The Weekly Times	4	6%
Friend told me	7	10%
Other	2	3%

III. HOW DID YOU FIND THE VENUE & EQUIPMENT FOR LEARNING?

Information Source	Numbers	% of replies
Great wouldn't change a thing	52	78%
Great but could you....	15	22%

Great but could you....

- Could be warmer, concrete cold to sit for along time
- Too long sitting
- Position projection screen at higher level, also speakers PA up on something
- Smoke a bit of a problem before doors closed on side where lectures, other doors opened; later much better.
- Shorten the sermons and could supply some soft drinks for the tea-totallers
- Sharpen up screen lighting
- Shed was a little cold but this will depend on weather
- Lift the screen of the projector. Venue great.
- I overheard people at the back saying they couldn't see screen
- Could you put a mud map up on the web if it's not their already
- Develop some trial show plots hang photos of 'before' and 'after'

Challenging because....

- Made us think outside the square from being conventional eg DPI methods
- Microphone problems

Comments/Suggestions

- Buildings were impressive
- More concise information
- More speakers in the future please and maybe need to place BBQs further away from the doors to prevent inside filling with smoke
- More working examples, plots etc.
- Need different chairs, really uncomfortable
- Good chairs and having plenty of light air and space are good. Better than confined room.
- Excellent day, well done all
- A free 5L NutriSoil for all those who attended
- Some more hands on activities in future events
- Understood the system and what was presented
- Keep having good speakers
- Excellent
- Directions to site could be more detailed. Didn't realise behind Wodonga Cattle yards. I ended up at Tangamballanga before asking farmer along the way
- Thankyou for the excellent lunch it was a spoil.
- May need more parking in the future. We were pleased to be there for the opening of your new facilities.
- Have done an excellent job
- Excellent

For a copy of this report or to offer comments please email:

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phone 02 6020 9676 or visit www.nutrisoil.com.au.

For Dr Maarten Stapper's paper visit www.bml.csiro.au/susnetnl/netwl61E.pdf
or contact NutriSoil for a copy to be sent to you direct.



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