

# Farming for the Future

Report on

**NutriSoil Open Day 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009**



“Farming for the Future” was the theme of this year’s NutriSoil Open Day. We chose this theme as we wanted to emphasize the value of having a **vision for our farms** and businesses. A vision can be specific & practical, or can be an outlook, something to continually strive for. Goals can be helpful to break down the necessary steps in order to head in the direction you want to go and indicate whether you are on the right track. The NutriHealth vision with some broad goals is on page three.

This year’s keynote speaker was **Dr Julian Hill** from University of Melbourne presenting on “Sustainable Pasture Systems for Ruminant Production”. We were pleased to see some scientific support for vermiculture presented which showed **larger root systems** compared to controls. Farmers from NSW & VIC presented their practical on-farm stories which were extremely useful for fellow farmers. The day culminated with the popular panel of all speakers answering questions from the audience.

The following report outlines the ideas and feedback from 53 people (of 163) who attended on the day. They were asked what their vision and/or goals of their farms/businesses were. This has left us with a rich resource of information about where our broadacre farmers see their future. It’s also a fascinating read for fellow farmers to appreciate and evaluate their own situation and views compared to others.

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**SUMMARY: 163 people attended. 38 forms representing 53 people. Therefore 33% forms returned.**

<b>Farm description</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>%</b>
Broadacre >100a	<b>33</b>	<b>87</b>
Hobby Farmers <100a	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>
Stock / Pasture	<b>37</b>	<b>97</b>
Cropping	<b>20</b>	<b>53</b>
Orchards / Horticulture / Nursery	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Home garden	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

**NB: Attendees could & usually did fall into more than one category**

## **Other Reasons for Attending**

- Interested in seeing how the product is made and if anything is added to it.
- Attempting to do away from synthetic fertilisers and sprays.
- Wanted to find out ways to improve our soils and plant health without using synthetic fertilisers.
- Keen to improve pasture growth.
- Gather more info.
- Experimenting with passionfruit, lime, lemon. Selling quality silage and hay.
- Just interested to see where NutriSoil achieved.
- Interested in natural farming (no chemicals).
- Wants to change from being reliant on Super.
- Soils have been farmed for long periods, are locked up and we have to get away from old methods.
- Invited by Murray Marke.
- Distributor for TM21.
- Attended to increase soil health.
- Keep in touch with your developments and talk to other farmers.
- Wish to improve the soil structure without using harsh fertilisers.

# NutriHealth Vision

*All people can live a healthy life through a complete biological balance in the soils.*

## Goals

1. Promote farmer-based trials using NutriSoil evidenced through visual response, yield (quality/quantity) and practical on-farm measurements.
  2. Develop and utilise the NutriSoil network of farmers & other resource people sharing practical on-farm stories that can empower other farmers to make well-informed decisions.
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## The Future of Farming

### ***Our Landholders' Visions***

*Attendees were asked what their goals and/or what their vision for the future of their farms was. Responses were grouped into themes.*

#### ***Reduce Artificial Inputs***

- To use less chemicals and chemical fertilisers. Farming for the environment – we have taken out of the bank on our farm and we need to put back.
- We would love to stop using chemicals eventually. I can't see us going organic, but would love to stop using most chemicals.
- To expand and to get the soil working with less inputs. Less chemicals.
- Reduce dependence on harmful expensive unnatural inputs.
- To continue using foliage sprays and get away from chemicals.
- No insecticides, no chemical, biological.

- To continue on our present path of over sowing pasture. No chemical or artificial fertilisers, spraying NS predominantly in the Spring.
- Reduce the amount of chemical used on my farms.

## ***Change to or Continue to use Natural Fertiliser***

- To hopefully change to more natural fertiliser options.
- To be able to put NutriSoil out at recommended rates.
- Used 500L NutriSoil this year after using 250L last year looking for rain to see results. Future goal is to use more NutriSoil and less Super if the results are good. Trying to get our pH up from low 4s to mid 5s.
- Aeration with ripping mole ripper and inoculating of clover seed – oats and other grass seeds when sowing them.
- Our goals are to buy more land and use natural products. “NutriSoil” is now going to be a big part of planning ahead. We are thrilled to have such a quality product to use and we will tell many others about NutriSoil.
- To move away from artificial fertilisers into a more natural type of farming. Bought a 5L of product on the day to do my own tests on two small paddocks of barley.
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> year of using product. Intend to use 100% NutriSoil.
- Elimination of artificial inputs.

## ***Be More Sustainable***

- Sustainability.
- To be sustainable and poison free.
- To use some form of bio fertiliser into the future. We feel that this is the only way in the future for sustainable crops and pasture production. NutriSoil seems to be the most cost effective.
- Working on using as much “organic” methods as possible without losing profit which needs to increase.
- To have a profitable farm without debt (or have a farm self financing).
- To grow healthy feed crops and grasses with less irrigation inputs for self sustainability to feed our beef economically.

- Improve farm productivity in a more sustainable way and maximising returns.

## ***Improve Soil, Plant & Animal Health***

- We are fairly mainstream broadacre farmers trying to improve the health of our soil using products such as TM21 and NutriSoil.
- I've concerned for a long time about conventional farming. About 15yrs ago I became a Bio Dynamic farmer. I have followed BD principles ever since but I haven't become registered. This means I can try other things as well. I am happy with my soil but we can always learn. I have a small worm farm here at home for kitchen scraps but I learnt at the Field Day NutriSoil is a lot more than this. I will be trialling some NutriSoil probably in the Spring in conjunction with my neighbours Peter Durston who purchased a drum of NutriSoil at the Field Day. I will be contacting you soon about having some delivered here.
- To increase our production by using biological methods that improves our soil and plant health.
- Improve the health and performance of the soil which flows onto plant growth/animal performance.
- We hope to improve the quality of our pasture (on our 7a!!) to provide better feed for our alpacas.
- Grow more, better pastures, in an environmentally safe way. Vision:- To reduce greenhouse emissions by assisting nature through use of biodynamic products.
- Healthy soil – crop – animals.
- Have balanced and healthy soil.
- To grow healthier plants and make good money by doing so.
- Have healthy family, animals and farms.
- Increase soil health (biology, carbon, biodiversity).
- To be a better carer of the soil. Reverse long term damage on property.
- Create a healthy soil naturally – hopefully this will increase production.
- Continue crop rotations.
- Production of hay that is safe for laminitis prone ponies and horses to eat.

## ***Enjoy Farming, Positive Influence, Learning & Trialling***

- Enjoy watching the farm blossom and grow as M sprays everything with NutriSoil. Enjoying healthy vegies as well. Only one problem, the weeds have very strong roots and don't want to come out.
- Hopefully have a ripple effect on my neighbours and peers.
- To continue to experiment with different ideas. Always an interesting challenge.
- I don't have a farm – but when I go to help MM I will have a better understanding of how he farms.

## ***Economic***

- Increase production.

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## **What Next? Suggestions Future Educational Needs...**

### ***Trials / Evidence / More Scientists...Farmers / Networking***

- More experts. More products which may work in with yours.
- More visual comparisons. More photos.
- Lots of trial data. Before you use NutriSoil and after you use NutriSoil. Like what's on Justin's farm!! Love to see Maarten Stapper again.
- We have used NutriSoil a little over the last couple of years and know that it works, however we don't fully understand how it works?!

- Julian Hill suggested that frost damage is less to NutriSoil (vermiculture) fertilised pastures because the fructose content in the leaf is lower in the morning as there is a link between fructose content and laminitis – does this make NutriSoil fertilised pastures safer for laminitis prone horses and ponies.
- Similar to this year, with a soil agronomist that is soil biological committed.
- We enjoyed hearing the experiences of the farmers and if possible include more of them.
- Soil biology, sprayer info – best way of delivering onto plants, seeds, soil. Jets, pressures, filters, etc. Which method has least damage to biology?
- Scientifically link NutriSoil product to soil health by means of carbon testing, to promote farming as an environmentally based occupation.
- Just get the farmers to speak, don't worry about the high profile doctors – farmers are more encouragers and encouraging.
- Linking it to drip feeding systems? Vege gardens. Basic soil science – most of us forget or don't know.
- Local trial sites.
- Different fert trials some with trace elements against NutriSoil.
- Soil health has been a great subject but how about animal nutrition and the effect healthy grass has on our stock.
- Suggest you contact Tony Licka from Barnawatha to talk on aeration Ph no. 6026 7375. He has designed and built a winged mole ripper.
- Meeting more people, sharing information, looking at their farms and their results (quality crops grasses and animal health.
- Soil test – taking of samples, reading and understanding analysis. Adapting recommendations. Pasture walks.
- Feedback from other farmers from different climatic areas.
- It was a little disappointing that there was no mention about stock health and how we can get away from chemical drenches by using this type of fertiliser. PS Graham a good product but hope it does not price itself out of market.
- Dr Christine Jones knows a lot more about carbon farming.
- Contact points of farmers using NutriSoil in our area.
- To have progressive farmers using NutriSoil speak on their farming experiences and try to book Maarten for next year.
- Learning more natural ways of dealing with issues.
- Hope to live long enough to see results of what I've learnt.
- Invite the “dear Lord” to show us how to make rain events happen!!
- Keep going the way you are.

- Sorry can't think, but you have a network of good speakers I'm sure.
- Would love to see NutriSoil available in gardening and nursery outlets in Melbourne.
- DVD on how Graham changed the original farm added to current DVD.
- Let GoTAFE know and the Dookie College etc in on your product, as through our young people the product needs to be advertised. Our daughter was with us at the Field Day. She is doing Ag 2 this year and has told her teachers about NutriSoil. I would imagine that the schools will try to be on board for the field days next time.

## What you learnt &/or were challenged by...

- A lot of other people thinking the same as us and that something has got to change in the way we do things.
- The NutriSoil brand seems to be going ahead in leaps and bounds.
- Mixing with like-minded people re the more natural biological way of farming is always reassuring. I am always challenged by the general opinion of using sprays, poisons etc as a must to grow good pasture.
- Nice to hear real farmers and their results with using NutriSoil.
- Seed treatment achieved nodulation in Jeff Andrews Peas. Brix readings dependent on time of day.
- A bit more info about worm juice.
- I learnt about vermiculture from Graham.
- I learnt that getting our pasture productive may be a lot less expensive and simpler to achieve than we previously thought. And with good healthy outcomes for our ponies.
- Challenged by cost/result of standard fertiliser compared to using only NutriSoil.
- Learnt
  - 1/ That some chemical fertiliser could be used to start the system off.
  - 2/ Do not use urea in normal kg/ha with NutriSoil.
- Challenged
  - 1/ Do not give up after 1<sup>st</sup> use but continue to use NutriSoil.
- NutriSoil is used in conjunction with chemical for cropping.



- There are those that are converted and those that are new to it. Maybe they need different days. You re-go over a lot that we hear every time. Maybe have guest speaker after lunch so the converted only have to come for the arvo or morning?
- We learnt that any biological soil/plant treatments will benefit our enterprise while chemicals and artificial fertilisers are gradually sending us broke. The biggest challenge for us is the “wait and see” aspect of changing our farming practices.
- The root structure growth and the photographs as shown by Julian were great to see.
- I found Dr Julian Hill’s presentation very good. Great to see the scientific people becoming enthusiastic to the benefits to increasing the soils health.
- There are a lot of people looking for an alternative fertiliser, for lots of different reasons.
- Proved it can be done - good soil, crops on marginal farming areas eg Jeff Andrews farm Finley without irrigation.
- That I need to use more NutriSoil on our garden – lot’s more.
- It is still a great product and it works well on our pastures and crops. Today 10-08-09 I had the opportunity to share what I think NutriSoil is doing on our farm and I’m convinced this friend will try some NutriSoil.
- All excellent, congrats.
- I believe I learnt more from Carlo because of his down to earth openness and passion for your product.
- We were amazed at how quickly soil can and does respond to NutriSoil – especially in Australia – where chemicals have now been used so extensively for so long – the future in farming is really exciting again with the thought of moving away from the harshness of chemicals, back to what our grandparents have that becomes a PASSION. Well done NutriSoil for sticking with it – all the way.
- Would’ve liked to know more about the making of NutriSoil and its’ formation.
- Our farming practices are getting on track by becoming biodynamic farmers after years of an experience in chemicals etc. We are hopeful to have a positive impact on the environment and that our farming practices produce better outcomes for our livestock and pastures. We are now having positive comments from farmers in the district – the way our pastures are looking.
- Learnt a lot from talking to people.
- Always interesting to hear how other farmers are improving soil structure
- The possibilities of moving from irrigation to dry land farming.
- It was great to talk with you folk from NutriSoil, however just as important to glean information from the guest speakers. Well done and thanks again.

- Reinforced our belief in organic or natural farming.
  - About the brix meter. Also great to hear of other farmers experiences but surprised they were still using artificial fertiliser as well as NutriSoil.
  - I learnt that if the soil is healthy you have less problems with weed.
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## Overall Experience

- Really very good, would look forward to going again especially as more trial results become available.
- Overall experience. Great day, people were very interested in using a different product compared to normal granule fert.
- A day well spent and positive experience. Good to be in company of like-minded people.
- Found the whole day informative.
- Very good day
- Excellent
- Wonderful Venue. Interesting day. I travelled by bus from Benalla. Very well organised. I enjoyed your enclosed cup of tea. Very novel.
- Always a good day for education and networking.
- Generally a good day, however I was hoping to learn more about your product – trial results, scientific data, nutrients provided per/L NutriSoil, how it actually works.
- Very enlightening. Thank-you for a beaut cup of tea.
- Will come again. Congratulations on another well run day.
- Having the chance to mix with others and learn more about the product and what can be achieved. Surprised to see so many there and a lovely warm day as well.
- Would like to see on screen use of Brix Meter. Comparison NutriSoil fertiliser plant / No fertiliser plant / Chemical Fertiliser plant. Opportunity to look at field trial of above 3 options.
- The place looked fantastic congratulations. Good to see a bit of debate about thistle spray or not. Would like more science on it. More visual about dressing seed. Need better examples of differences with or without NS kg hay/ha.

- As a farm walk would be impractical with so many participants, perhaps some DVD slots of crops/pasture treatments and results would be interesting.
- Thoroughly enjoyable! We aim to come again in 2010.
- Terrific food options and just the right amount of breaks to stretch the legs. Cheers and thankyou for the wonderful day.
- Glad I made the trip, had a great day.
- Meeting other people from all over Australia. Huge learning curve.
- As always a very enjoyable day. Venue is fantastic. Extra loo fantastic. Food wonderful, even the day was bright and sunny. Chatting to other farmers is always great.
- Coach trip was excellent. Toilets a big improvement on last year. Thankyou NutriSoil for giving us a product that does our plants and soils enrichment and thankyou Rachelle and team for great day.
- Very good.
- Well presented, informative.
- I think the day would take a lot of organising and it was a credit to you and sticking to the time slots is imperative.
- We enjoyed the whole experience, we learnt a lot and we have been using NutriSoil on our farm and we feel that we are doing something positive to the land.
- Great day, hope you will have one next year.
- Wonderful day, great facilities and a wonderful group of positive people.
- Farmers using NutriSoil are very interesting to hear how your product is working for them.
- Very good.
- Nice to meet Ron Koscoitzke who uses NutriSoil as a foliar instead of urea. Thanks Rachelle.
- Thank you for putting back, to those who buy your product. Good business.
- When Dr JH said "I know the answer to that but I'm not going to tell you" we were less than impressed. His body language showed us he knew where your farmer speakers were going wrong, BUT didn't say anything. We believe Maarten would've been more helpful. Don't take this personally - you do a great job with speakers but no-one knows how it will turn out on the day.
- Well run and catered for day.
- It was great to hear real life experiences of other farmers from all types of farming backgrounds.
- Have been hearing and reading about your product for a couple of years and welcomed the chance to go and learn more about it. Quite impressed – want to learn more.

## INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS

### 9.30am Registration / Morning tea - scones

Excellent x 4; 10/10; Great x 2; Tick; Very good; Very very nice; Divine – I would like that scone recipe; Nice but need some fresh fruit; A great welcome on a cold & frosty morning; Organised & great; Tops (scones) sign to indicate those already paid; Lovely; Registration big queue small room – morning tea scrumptious; Great after our bus trip there; A good start to the day.

Scones outstanding, registration not enough room – bottleneck; Easier to register & scones were fantastic; Smooth, excellent – next time no breakfast; Greeted by such a great morning and really set a positive tone for the whole day; Great came back for seconds; Registration easy – scones great; Great good welcome; Very welcome; All good; Beautiful; Very yum

### 10.00am Welcome & NutriSoil Update – Rachelle Armstrong

Excellent x 5; Great x 2; Tick; Very good; Good x 2; 10/10; All good; Did not introduce herself to me a first time visitor; Great to be able to put a name to a face; Good/clear & well presented – Friendly smile was great; Friendly; As always Rachelle you do a great job; Very entertaining and well presented-professional; Very good spoken in a way to convey you are laying the facts before everyone; Well presented & set the scene for the rest of the day.

Down to earth & informative; Good overview; Very well spoken, Good, articulate-able to keep things flowing despite some problems with computers; Very precise, made us understand the day's format; Well done showed some personality; Went on too long - When you've got a good product it sells itself; Too long understand OHS requirements; Good lovely to see you again; Very confident & well informed in the family business.

<b>10.30am Dr Julian Hill</b>	
<p>Excellent x 3; 10/10; 2 x Tick; Good; All good; Interesting; Not easy to concentrate-need to hear again, send copy of pres; He said during his talk that he was not prepared to talk about NutriSoil which I thought was a bit rude/strange – I didn't find his talk useful or enjoyable; Very interesting – deep I need more time to absorb it all – send pres; Preferred Maarten Stapper; Very academic, the production of his paper was not helped by the amplifier – perhaps a bit technical for famers – send info so I can understand it better; Quite hard to get in his zone – May have got more out of him if had worked with him before; Boring – ideal time for coach drivers to catch up on snooze – did not talk animal health; Unless a farmer is into intense monitoring figures &amp; professional talks, not easy to follow or remember; Very informative, could have been a bit longer; Julian spoke in clear easy to understand manner, he was down to earth &amp; easy to approach; Down to earth &amp; informative.</p>	<p>Too scientific for us as farmers – Got lost after 15min; Very clever man but his talk was too academic in his delivery – Became boring towards the middle of his delivery; Good but we found it hard to connect with what he was talking about – Very scientific; I don't get much from this type of speaker – I prefer practical speakers like farmers; Perhaps a little more scientific that we were expecting or looking for; Excellent – quite technical but presented in an easy to understand way; Informative well presented, easy to understand presentation; I'm sorry guys but the Dr left me cold-he has to learn that we farmers weren't educated as his level so speak at our level &amp; don't mumble; Too technical; Used too many big words, I personally think he wasted good time; Presentation 3 yrs old, outdated, hard to understand with quelling microphone; Colour slides hard to read on Sth side of shed – maybe skylight reflection; He pointed out that if the soil is friable you get a deeper root system.</p>

<b>11.30am Short Break</b>	
<p>Very good; Tick; Good x 3; Needed x 2; Excellent; Great; Needed this break; Good – chance to talk to others; Good to have a stretch &amp; a cuppa after the brain strain; All good;</p>	<p>Good chance to move around &amp; stretch legs; Great to have a stretch; The break times are well spaced for people to chat &amp; refresh; Needed to go to toilet badly; Good to meet others &amp; talk about NutriSoil; Well timed; Good time for this;</p>

**11.45am Graham Maddock – Vermiculture DVD**

Excellent x 3; Tick; Interesting x 2; Good; Great x 2; 10/10; All good; Good perhaps another speaker in this timeslot; Excellent – great to see the making of NutriSoil etc; Well – good spur of the moment speech!; Good coverage of what goes on at NutriSoil; After the hiccup with the DVD the video was excellent; Would have liked to see blending & finishing process; A bit more in depth of NutriSoil – analysis of product; Audio problems; Overhead?; Always good to listen to Graham; Great to see how NutriSoil works; This was informative in the production of NutriSoil.

Great insight of NutriSoil & how it all came about; A bit problematic to start with – content was good; Coherent, straightforward education on how to work with nature for healthy safe production of food for people & animals; Graham is always good to listen to – the DVD was excellent & well put together – loved the inside workings of the worm; It's great when technology does not interfere – great job Justin; Very important to give out line of production; Good to see the procedure on DVD & hear Graham's commentary.

**12.15pm Lunch**

Excellent x 8; Tick; Great; Beautiful; Delicious; All good; 15/10; Top of the tree; Yum yum yum; Great catering; Beautiful lunch great choices; Delightful really enjoyed it; Top marks; 10/10 gold star; What can I say! Pumpkin soup yummy, Pie-wow coming again for another one; Super duper I will come again just for the pies; Tops again; Great food plus good amount of break time; Soup–great-never tasted better; Beautiful food;

If I didn't learn anything at least I know where to go for the best soup & pies I have ever tasted – terrific; A large print menu on the wall beside the entry door listing the varieties of wonderful pies available would have been better; More time to talk to others; Excellent home-made pies & soup-very tasty; Could not better yourselves; 4xticks-thankyou for the meal provided, great pies; Best we have ever had; Delicious!-Thoroughly enjoyed it.

<b>1.00pm Carlo Sortino, Naring, VIC</b>	
<p>Excellent; Tick x 2; 3 ticks; Good x 3; Great; All good x 2; Natural – no airs or graces – told it exactly how it was &amp; the difference it made – If I didn't already know I would go &amp; try some; Brilliant &amp; honest speaker after the boring speaker at 10.30; Ok; Didn't get anything out of his address; A different perspective; Hard to follow got lost in presentation was not sure of his message; Very interesting talk &amp; easy to understand; Good to get feedback; Good content, bit nervous; Lost his way a bit, good happy client; All 3 speakers explained things really good; Not a seasoned speaker; Spoke very well, his talk interesting; Good to hear of their experiences.</p>	<p>Extremely valuable, made it clear to any sceptics that NutriSoil works -enjoyed his presentation very much; Informative-pity he didn't weight &amp; count bales on NutriSoil plot to compare chemical fertiliser plots; Give the man a stage-good; Interesting &amp; entertaining speaker; All 3 gave a clear indication of how their enterprises benefited from NutriSoil – very practical; Very useful to hear user experiences; I still remember Carlo's address because of his passion &amp; simplistic presentation; A bit shy on public speaking but has a good vision goal going forward – A pity he did not have a handout on his program; A bit nervous but got his message across; Interesting to hear his experiences.</p>

<b>1.30pm Jeff Andrews, Finley, NSW</b>	
<p>Very interesting; Excellent; Tick x 2; 3 ticks; Good x 5; Good information; All good; Great; Liked this presentation down to earth clear &amp; knew what their aims for the farm are – also good to see a visual component; All 3 gave a clear indication of how their enterprises benefited from NutriSoil – very practical; Very useful to hear user experiences; Farmer happy with results, sample plants good idea; It was great to hear first-hand how positive an effect a product has on farms &amp; the passion of the farmer; All 3 speakers explained things really good; Very interesting brought plan samples to look at; Had a good talk about rates &amp; plant / root growth at the end before afternoon tea.</p>	<p>Impressed by samples shown &amp; just how good an example of dry farming results can be; Good to get feedback; Good-well spoken; Extremely valuable; Clearly demonstrated the value of NutriSoil to dryland farmers ie superior soil, moisture retention; Sounds like a great learning experience from irrigation to dryland &amp; then using NutriSoil – very good; Another great speaker-hands on &amp; proven NutriSoil can work for him; Quite good, still not quite convincing but well on the way; Best of the speakers-great to see plant material on display-good to talk to during break; Interesting talk, like to know how he is progressing in the future; Good to hear of their experiences; Very passionate about the</p>

Interesting from a cropping angle.	product & can see results.
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<b>2.00pm Peter Webber, Young, NSW</b>	
Very interesting; Excellent; Tick x 2; 2 ticks; Good x 5; All good; Great; Professional farmer who knows; Good-farmer in his delivery & presentation; Peter would be one of the best ambassadors you can get to talk about NutriSoil-very informative; Good to get feedback; Average presentation; Extremely valuable-Peter left no doubts that NutriSoil is a very cost effective way of maintaining farm production; 2 bob each way-maybe in 5 yrs time he will be a convert; A bit domineering but his program was very interesting; All 3 speakers explained things really good; My kind of farming, very interesting.	Very very informative – clear & concise to listen to; Peter’s information was probably more in line with our own enterprise; All 3 gave a clear indication of how their enterprises benefited from NutriSoil – very practical; Very useful to hear user experiences; Again – passion & enthusiasm for NutriSoil – it always encourages either to keep doing it or try for the first time; Also another great speaker – hands on & proven NutriSoil has worked for him; Very interesting showing us how to get away from using artificial fertilisers; We talked about seed inoculation at lunch; Good talk; Good to hear of their experiences; His experience is also informative.

<b>2.30pm Afternoon Tea - Biscuits</b>	
Very good x 2; Good x 3; Great again; Excellent x 2; Tick x 2; Great x 2; Yum x 3; Yummy x 2; All good x 2; 12/10; Very good; A good excuse to ease the butt & chat some more; Nice but need some fresh fruit.	Great smoko; The Maddocks are great cooks loved it; Food is always appreciated tops again; Loved the anzac biscuits; Don’t need dinner tonight; Nice break-chance to talk with speakers & others, enjoyed the biscuits!



### 3.00pm Panel of all speakers answering questions from audience

Excellent; Tick; Good idea; Good x 2; Ok; All good; 10/10; Great; Informative & revealing; Answered people's concerns well; Very good idea-thought it went well; Interesting for specific questions; A few conflicting answers? Some questions not answered; Valuable-great to have the opportunity to have your own queries addressed; Good to hear different opinions from floor & speakers on some problems; Stick to short time as people needing to get home was really well received; One of the best parts of the day learnt a lot from the answer given; Panel answered questions fairly well; Good – Dr Julian Hill's comment on carbon was out of touch eg grow trees; Always a good idea, very informative.

Very interesting need to keep it moving, adjudicate more; It was good to hear a broad spectrum of answers & opinions to the questions asked; Unfortunately we had to leave prior to this session; Had to leave part way through to get home – 5.5hr trip; All farmers great & encouraging, Dr Julian loved the sound of his own voice & succeeded in confusing us; I hope NutriSoil was not funding Dr J Hill he was supposed to talk earlier on animal nutrition I missed it; I think this is very important to clarify any doubts or questions people have; When Dr Julian Hill said "I know the answer to that but I'm not going to tell you" we were less than impressed – his body language told us that he knew where your farmer speakers were going wrong, but didn't say anything; They answered all the queries well.

# FACILITATION & LOGISTICS

## I. Was the day well facilitated / organised?

<b>Selected from feedback form</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of replies</b>
Great, everything ran smoothly	29	76%
Mostly pretty good, except for...	6	16%

### Mostly pretty good, except for...

- Except for Dr Hill.
- PA system but that was not your fault.
- Technical delays.
- Would have been helped by you having had time to test the computer controlled DVD presentation beforehand.
- We realise it was out of your hands.
- Sound system early hiccup but easily fixed.
- Graham's presentation especially DVD not working properly as he was talking.
- Do appreciate the educational experiences with competent and intelligent speaker Dr Julian Hill.

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

- Served the food outside.
- Run the field day in April/March as it may be warmer.

## **Comments / Suggestions**

- Would have like a supplier of spray application equipment to be there with good deals to offer.
- More bins!!
- A bench to put your cup on while eating (for messy eaters).
- Congratulations on managing the day so successfully even with the presentation "hiccup".
- Those burgundy pies - excellent we would like the wine separate next time - just a joke, Bob.
- Thank-you for the extra toilet.
- Does worm food determine the higher or lower nutrient value of NutriSoil.
- Change or fix equipment.
- Maybe more emphasis on photos before and after application / or plots near presentation area.
- Julian Hill presentation was too technical.
- The day went really good.

## II. How did you find out about the day

Selected from feedback form	Total	% of replies
Invite in Mail/Email from NutriHealth	28	74
The Border Mail (Country Mail)	6	16
Friend told me	6	16
Other	3	8

## III. How did you find the equipment for learning?

Selected from feedback form	Numbers	% of replies
Great wouldn't change a thing	26	68%
Great but could you...	13	34%

### Great but could you...

- Change your sound and video system or change the contractor you hired.
- Improve toilet facilities.
- Find a way to block the light when showing a DVD.
- Was a bit cold to start with.
- Have a bit better mic and speaker system provided for you.

- Keep it warmer inside, bum got cold. Sound gear set up the day before!
- Ensure that the PA system was positioned so that there was no feedback.
- Reduce farmer segment, and have maybe second speaker.
- Have the field day when it is warmer weather. When I'm on blood thinner tablets I feel the cold. That's why I sit where I do.
- Explain the food and supplements given to the worms. Also the reason why you feed them that mixture.
- Change your sound and video system or change the contractor you hired.
- You did a good job organising a big lot of people.
- Audio-visual needs to be set up better.

### **Challenging because....**

- We have been doped for 50yrs on conventional farming and it is proving wrong (use by date has expired 20yrs ago).
- I was unable to hear guest speaker. He was clear at times, but he seemed to vary mostly because he moved the mic around. Not complaining just found it difficult.

### **Comments / Suggestions**

- Would have liked to have seen production process operating.
- Instead of just hiring the PA system and expecting poor Justin to work it, have someone who is familiar with the system work it and take it off Justin. PS Mate you did a good job.
- Fine tune audio.
- Venue was excellent. Question and answer is the most important part of the learning process.
- Really professional - 10 points.
- Venue could be a little more warmer. Opening the big doors made it hard for the heaters you used.
- Very professional.
- Bigger the group then organising takes more time.
- Extra toilet made a big difference.

# NutriHealth

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