

Getting Results 2012

Report on

NutriSoil Annual Event

26-27th July 2012

GETTING RESULTS endeavoured to help farmers think about how they measure their on-farm progress and whether they were 'kicking goals' (or not). The aim was to introduce new ideas/perspectives that could be helpful and also share between farmers some of their best guides or ways for measuring outcomes.

Over the two-days, the presentation team did an amazing job of delivering foundational and new information to a mixed audience with differing experience levels and farming types. State-of-the-art microbiology testing opportunities were presented by Dr Ash Martin of CIAAF Microbiology Laboratories. Nicole Masters of Integrity Soils, New Zealand explained numerous tools for giving farmers useful knowledge for decision making. A practical session allowing participants to use a refractometer was popular with many people appreciating the hands-on experience. Martin Royds gave a tremendous pictorial presentation of how he had trialled water management through Natural Sequence Farming techniques. Byron Schultz and Neville Lubke also presented innovative farming techniques to an audience hungry for practical information.

A MUST READ FOR ALL FARMERS: Observation is KEY to measuring results! Read & compare with other farmers HOW they observe & WHAT they are looking for when making decisions. Soil..Stock..Plants..Roots....

Rachelle Armstrong, Co-Director, NutriSoil

Who Attended?

Annual Event – Getting Results DAY 1 96 people attended.

DAY 2 54 people attended.

Feedback forms 39 returned representing 51 people attending
Therefore 36% return rate.

Abbreviations used in report: NM – Nicole Masters, AM – Dr Ashley Martin, MR – Martin Royds, NS – NutriSoil

Farm description	TOTAL	%
Income Producing and/or >100a	33	65%
Hobby Farmers <100a	4	8%
Stock / Pasture	37	73%
Cropping	12	24%
Orchards / Horticulture / Viticulture	3	6%
Home Garden	4	8%

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

Other Reasons for Attending:

- Interested in soil health and looking for a suitable fertiliser to use to build soil health.
- Need to renovate pastures and then look after them properly.
- Interested in NutriSoil.
- Professional interest.
- To improve soil fertility & productivity.
- Life starts @ soil. Love worms & what they do.
- Interest in soil health.
- Just keeping up to date on new developments.
- Kindly invited back:)
- Accompany Martin Royds & to learn more about soil & it's importance. Also keen to hear Nicole Masters again.

How did you find out about the day?	TOTAL	%
Invite in Mail/Email from NutriHealth	31	61%
North East CMA	2	4%
Farming Secrets	1	2%
The Border Mail (Country Mail)	3	6%
North East Farmer	4	8%
NutriSoil Website	4	8%
The Land	2	4%
Other eg.Friend / Neighbour	6	12%

ACCORDING TO OUR FARMERS...

Tools or Guiding Principals for
knowing when you're
Getting Results (good or bad)

Responses are in no particular order and each dot-point represents a different farmer's comments...

- 1 Root development in crops...heaps better now.
- 2 Penetrometer – figures how deep your compaction is.
- 3 Stock poo – dung beetle movement.
- Observation / yield (kgs grown).
- Taking sap tests for nutritional health of crop.
- Brix reading but they are often indicators which was not talked about.
- So many don't know where to start. See if cattle are healthy and where they choose to feed, earthworm numbers, weed prevalence, pasture health etc.
- Getting extensive soil tests tomorrow & looking forward to getting the balance right then bring on the NutriSoil.
- I've forgotten what it is called but the little machine you put the sap on and get the reading.
- Brix – meter – reading taking them properly
- Find results generally better.
- Eyes – visual observation – livestock health.
- **Good**:-Increase "speed" of grass regeneration after grazing, increase diversity of desirable plant species in pastures, increase worm population soil. **Bad**:-Drying off of pastures when

hot/dry. Slow regrowth post grazing. Decreased species diversity with occurrence of weed species.

- How the crops & pastures look and responds to treatment.
- Livestock responses and our eyes.
- My stock health and diversity of plant species is far better than when using superphosphate.
- Use your eyes. Cheaper on tools.
- Visual is still a powerful tool and looking at the soil structure. Refractometer tool handy to show what you apply to the plant will have a difference.
- Yellowing of leaves changing.
- Our observations of stock health and vitality. Observations of improved pasture and less weeds.
- Close observations of farm owners footsteps.
- Eyes & footprints etc get out, look, monitor.
- Visual inspection above & below ground level.
- The 5 senses, soil structure, final yield, protein etc. We do have microscope, brix, the old medicos adage: First do no harm.
- Visual soil assessment – (book) Working my way through this. Want to keep it simple. Need to do more with the refractometer to calculate the process.
- Having plants with many roots.
- Fresh, good colour grass, stock health, worm activity, dung beetles, friable soil, less weeds.
- I'd have to say my observations, soil tests & now brix testing.
- Husband!!
- Observation & monitoring.
- It is interesting to see where the sheep/cattle go back to eat. Am sure hay made from those paddocks have cows HAPPY during cold/wet periods with very little other food available.

- Brix meter plus general observation. But variations in brix a concern unless procedures can be developed to adjust for time of day/weather etc.
- Quality & quantity of hay produced, observing where cattle are feeding & their weight gain.
- Beautiful growth on paddocks treated. Our sheep & cattle are too fat. Weeds over-grown with healthy, edible grasses.
- Everything comes down to the soil – observing, working to balance the soil life, allowing proliferation below the soil.
- For me where I am at I think using Ash's soil tests showing the microbiology would be beneficial. Then to apply your product and retest after a few applications.
- The health of my stock.

What did you Learn & or what were you Challenged by?

- The need for more understanding around microbes and how I can capitalise on their benefits on my farm.
- By Ash I could spend a day with him.
- Increased my knowledge of microbes & their impact on soil nutrient levels.
- There is a lot more going on beneath the soil surface than I could ever have imagined.
- Sooo much to take in so little time. Almost an overload of information but tried to concentrate on the things that will benefit me most. Great two days, I'm glad I attended.
- I learnt how to use some of those tools and how to measure results. I learnt how important micro-bacteria are and how plants have changed over the years eg the root mass.

- Learning about tools for use. Loved the plant experiment like Joe said “Urea kills plants!!” That was his conclusion to the experiment. Liked the paperwork & guidelines on what your results should be when testing soils/plants at home.
- A new or better way of looking after our soil. I would like to go again.
- Soil structure – air, water, decay, nutrient. Brix reading. Lifecycle in soil. Bacteria – fungi – protozoa = microbes. I’ve realised I still have a lot to learn and a lot to improve with my own soils.
- Learned enormous amount about soil biology – the most detail have ever learned from a field day / conference and its application to a farming system. Still struggle with what to do to accelerate the pace of soil rejuvenation and therefore production and therefore profit on farm. ie. What is most important? What (after grazing management) should be addressed first? Still struggle with soil mineral balance, relationships between soil minerals ie soil chemistry.
- I was challenged to the more pro-biological with the cropping program.
- Again we were fascinated by Nicole Masters but frustrated that her time allocation was so short. A world leader – and we couldn’t even listen to her whole presentation! However, congratulations and thanks for putting on another excellent event and for allowing us to hear from a good range of speakers.

What Next? Suggestions for Future Educational Needs

- More on the how to achieve ideal biological farming model.
- Animal health less nutrient run-off.
- Still trying to digest this lot of info, but are interested in what you may come up with in the future.

- Was very impressed that the “product” wasn’t being thrust upon us at every chance – just plenty of information & ideas so that we can go away and make our own judgemental decisions. Having said that have done a fair bit of research on the computer since and keep coming back to the options NutriSoil offers.
- It might have just been me but some things were a little hard to understand but I still learnt a lot and enjoyed the day. It’s a shame I couldn’t make it (for Day 2). It looks like it would have been a very interesting day and I look forward to next year.
- Maybe get Peter Andrews next year. Down to earth people that talk language of farmers – no tech???
- ACTION - Putting knowledge into action on farm. Hearing people’s different ideas & how they do things.
- Let us know next year’s dates.
- I enjoyed the farmer presentations. More testing please.
- Nicole Masters & Martin Royds were the standout speakers because I learned the most from their content therefore suggest – more on ways to increase soil biology – detail on compost teas, cover crops, where & when not to use soil aeration. – More on natural sequence farming perhaps using example on steep hills farming with smaller “floodplains”. – Types of species seed of perennials to introduce to farm systems for grazing in this area around Kiewa Valley. – Soil chemistry, lime, trace elements, ways of applying hills, should they be applied?
- Continue along same lines!
- More of the same. Having different farmer speakers each year is good for us but challenging for you to organise. Most people relate well to other farmer’s experiences.
- What was on the second day for next year first day or that theme. Practical success results of farmers.

- Ways of correcting soil deficiencies as each year is different and brings a different challenge.
- Soil chemistry – basic course.
- Perhaps a segment of NutriSoil application methods – eg. boom spray setups, nozzles, speed...best time to spray, storage, potential problems or issues.
- I'm no help.
- Further developing the monitoring tools.
- Some more on animal and human health benefits from a healthy soil.
- Someone who measures nutrient density of the food we produce.
- I am watching the experiments with mulching. Combining this with NutriSoil use seems a real possibility on a broad scale.
- How to kick-start your biology when you have been using chemical fertilisers. Which is worse: too much tillage or using herbicides and insecticides?
- Sugar / brix testing, farmers bring in soil, a shovel full with pasture or crop.
- Animal health maybe?? Retailer – farmer expectations!!
- Don't know enough to suggest anything.
- Suggest having a panel of speakers and a chair – chose a theme for the session to promote discussion – it's a great way to tease info from the speakers and a different way to present info.
- Need to better define the link between microbial improvements & improvements in soil carbon. Spectacular claims made by biological farmers in improving soil carbon are ultimately dismissed by orthodox soil scientists as being unachievable.
- We need to know how to improve our soil quicker.
- Although more comfortable this time – I was still cold. I will wear more clothes next time. I love the pens, notebook & handouts. They are constant reminders thank you.
- Keep it simple.

Day 1 - Overall Experience / General Comments

- Very interesting day. Could there have been more small group discussion?
- I enjoyed the day and would come next year.
- Informative good mix of speakers and topics kept it interesting with short sessions.
- Great day! Went away exhausted but also inspired. Only negative comment is I was disappointed they used four times the dosage of NutriSoil recommended rate in test on growth experiment. Didn't get to ask why that was so, as had to leave early.
- Good warm sheltered set-up – heaps of knowledge & information to digest & as a “newby” plenty of food for thought.
- Had a great day, learnt a lot and enjoyed listening to all the speakers. Oh and the food was excellent, well done!
- Gets better each year – good speakers.
- Loved Nicole Masters, experiments & farmer experiences - all ACTION. How do we do it? What do we do when we go home. Awesome.
- Great day for me.
- Don't make it too technical.
- Congrats! Perfect!
- Excellent day of learning! Time exceptionally well spent. Will change nutrient management, water diversion & management on farm, tighten grazing management.
- Always come away thinking what a great product!! Would love to use more of it.
- Our biggest disappointment was not being able to really have a good listen to Nicole – she had a long presentation and it was too RUSHED AND UNFINISHED.

- The marquee and seat arrangements were a big improvement on comfort and it is always good that you run on time.
- Should have saved my money and went the second day instead.
- Interesting day.
- Very glad I went.
- The marquee was much warmer and we liked the round tables – generated better group participation. Well done.
- An excellent event and it's always good to meet similar minded folks.
- Brilliant, loved the round tables and interactions with attendees.
- Nice addition to last years' sessions.
- Well organised, on time excellent venue for further learning.
- Wonderful day. Bitterly disappointed I could not stay for Day 2.
- Terrific 2 days. Informative and useful.
- Had a good day.
- Very interesting.
- The unique thing about the 2 days was the use of the same speakers. We were given the opportunity to digest info on day 1 and by day 2 were ready to absorb new information with a greater depth of understanding.
- Well worth the time & money. Keep the great work up. The enthusiasm & positiveness was catching. One of the most enjoyable days with great learning outcomes.
- An inspiring day with a strong empirical and scientific base.
- Overall a very enjoyable day – Thank you.
- A wonderful stimulating day. It made you examine all the things you could do to improve your own situation.

- Absolutely brilliant. So much open passing on of information. Brilliant job Rachelle. Thank you so much for the effort that everyone put in. Mum and I certainly appreciated it!!
- Very good

Day 2 – Overall Experience / General Comments

- Overall good, pity about the weather. I would have liked to do the onsite soil inspection.
- Worthwhile two days. Some things known but always need refreshing. A lot was new or more in-depth & giving me more knowledge to understand the topics better. A challenge for attendees in the future could be to ask across the room who has implemented what they heard from the previous year. Question – Why / why not? Eg. Easy to implement or cheap, committed eg difficult, expensive, unsure, no-one close to ask for assistance etc. Congratulations, a well run & informative two days.
- Really enjoyed the morning. Name-tags with home location a good icebreaker. Overall a great couple of days thank you. Look forward to trialling your product.
- Very interesting – enjoyed the whole experience and glad I attended the two days.
- I am slowly learning. You guys have done an amazing job with this event again. Inspirational people/team. Thank you...!
- Just as good as Day 1. Esp Nicole Masters & Martin Royds & Ash Martin's talks. Would not have had as much gain from these if had not attended day 1 first.
- We walk away feeling it was a biological field day ran by NutriSoil. I don't know if that is where you want it to go. Very interesting 2 days well ran – Thank you.
- Brilliant world class event, very well organised. You guys are getting slick!!

- A very informative day. Hope I can make both days next time.
- Good for solidarity and follow up but has less punch, less energy. All the different speakers dovetailed in with each other – synergistic.
- Would attend again.
- Very rewarding - thank you very much.
- One never leaves without learning from the experience.
- I am an advocate for natural remedies for humans and animals – stands to reason that the more natural our soils are – thus crops & feeds – has to be the way to go.
- A wonderful exciting 2 days. Lots of plans. Has given me the incentive to put the information into practice.
- Congratulations to you all for staging such a superb event!! Every aspect of the day was brilliant. Received one-on-one advise on how to set up a spray unit and offer of advise any time. The generosity of everyone was amazing. An absolute credit to you all. Loved it!! Brilliant job!! Can't speak highly enough of the whole experience!!
- Another very good conference well worth attending – thank you for the search for my purse – it was stuck up on the bar that moves the seat forward so wasn't actually on the floor – my apologies for the wild goose chase – last thing you needed after all the work you had done.

Individual Sessions Comments – Thursday

9.00 Registration / Morning Tea – scones

Great x 4; Ok; Excellent x 3; Yum; Terrific; Brilliant; Delicious; Very good; Very nice to have scones; Most welcoming; Loved the scones. Nice to start the day! Thank you; Morning tea was great, scones were delicious Great real good; Loved it!!; Loved the scones; Good idea; Excellent as usual; Beautiful as usual; Registration ran smoothly & scones delicious; Great well organised; Catering excellent; Second to none!; Casual & relaxing; Quick & easy, a cuppa is always welcome after 2hrs of travel; Great start to the day; We were strong - didn't have the scones - looked yummy. Great, just got there a bit late:(

9.30 Welcome – Rachelle Armstrong

Excellent; Awesome; Ok; Friendly; Great; Good x 2; Good – could have warmed the crowd up more?; Gave a good outline of program; Great introduction; It was a good welcome but I would have liked to hear a bit more about NutriSoil; Very well spoken; Thankyou Rachelle - interesting; Excellent hostess; Good but too long (1/4hr); Always good to listen to; Interesting, needed to be a bit shorter; Nice to get to know Rachelle's history; Not as clear as other speakers due to held microphone; Well done, good to learn more about Rachelle; Awesome job Rachelle, great to see you looking so relaxed; Very confident presenter always welcoming thanks; Well done, we knew exactly how the day was scheduled; Well set up; Set the stage; Very professional – well done; Sincere and relaxing; Good to catch up with updates from "NutriSoil"; Great job; Great overview & was great to listen to.

10.00 World of Soil Biology – Nicole Masters

Excellent x 2; Great; Awesome; Ok; Fantastic speaker - delivered information in an understandable way; Excellent - good to hear more after last year's conference and build on that; Funny, attention-grabbing; All of Nicole's talks were helpful & enthusiastic; Fantastic speaker, so enthusiastic & interesting;

More information contained in her head than Wiki leaks and Google combined - great presentation!;
Nicole was very good at explaining and included the audience; Great down to earth - very helpful;
Good explanation of what takes place in the soil - could have been more; A bit high-brow but informative;
Nicole was able to explain in a suitable way for me. Phosphate, fungi, calcium; Wonderful speaker could listen to her
all day; Fantastic. Love the way she delivers; Good but a bit rushed - excellent handout; Always interesting. Love her
passion; Explained in a way that the lay person can understand. Go away wanting to know more;
Brilliant lady with a passion worth following; Very good intro to the biology found in soil - their role & interaction;
Fascinating! Learned the biggest limiting factors for production on farm - O₂, H₂O, decay management and nutrient
management; Absolutely fantastic but too rushed as her time allocation was too short;
Nicole is terrific but speaks too fast for us oldies; Fantastic enthusiasm and excellent material. I came to hear her;
Shows there was a lot we don't know about our soils; Talks a little fast for vintage hearing;
Interesting, but end up with too many large scientific names that go over our heads!;
Good presentation, maybe a bit general, perhaps more focussed material would be a bit better;
Nicole covered a big subject - could have had more time to present. The handout is a good idea;
Brilliant. Very informative. Would have been great to have copies of the slideshow to refer to later;
As always Nicole's talk was very good. Because she was restricted by time, she spoke too quickly and her message
became unclear how to achieve these goals;

10.30 Soil Microbiology Testing – Dr Ash Martin

Good x 2; Ok; Very informative; Very good x 2; Very interesting; Great; Interesting, but a bit intense at times;
Great - never knew that was available; Had heard some before but more depth this time;
Brilliant, inspirational. Great to see scientists who can communicate so clearly & engagingly;)
Ash was very good too. He has an answer for just about everything, enjoyed listening to him;
The best, so easy listening - talks farmer easy listening, have listen longer; Very thorough presentation;
Joe found this a little boring but good; Not relevant to me; How to measure. Clear on the day;
Very good! Gained understanding of how biological functional efficiency of soil (or lack of) measured;
A bit high-brow but informative; Too long - he just promoted his service 1/2 hr would be sufficient;
Went to sleep for parts. Interesting enough; Not very fluent. Bit too long; He was really good at explaining;
Help us with knowing what our soils are doing; Interesting to know what testing is available out there;
Very good, gave a nice connection between testing & practical field requirements;

Non-users of NutriSoil are wanting more science behind the product. Also some users want to see numbers so this presentation helped; Didn't know this existed very interesting; Academically very impressive; I have heard Ash a number of times, I do not think this was his best presentation. Look forward to his work with NutriSoil; Very interesting talk. Good to know there are testing facilities available for so many things; Brilliant. Great hearing what tests are available that I had no idea about. Will definitely use some of them; I get a bit lost when things become scientific or numbers are involved but feel more confident using the product knowing it has been tested; Also very interesting. Needed to give some ball park costing;

11.30 Tools (pre & post lunch) – Nicole Masters

Great x 2; Practical advice most helpful; Ok; Excellent – more of this!!; Great. Understand better, how to use; Waste of time; Could've been explained better; No comment but ok; I bought the kit & am enjoying testing; Bit of fun; Noticeable differences; Excellent; Fantastic idea but not enough equipment to go around; Reaffirmed the usefulness. We have our own; Thanks for the opportunity to get to use a refractometer etc. A great tool to have on hand one day; It was interesting seeing the tools and how they worked. Would have been good to see a more accurate test tho; Great introduction. I will test more & purchase a refractometer; Explanation of carbon cycle, krebs cycle, calcium & trace minerals utilisation most useful. Very good to know how to properly use Brix meter. Criticisms - too much time spent with some tables waiting for other tables to finish using garlic crushers; Too short & rushed - would have loved to be able to complete this session; Very interesting with each table doing their own testing; Very good, maybe a few more samples would be even better; We found this part very good as we hadn't used brix meter before; Now I know what people are talking about great; Excellent - but measuring brix needs tighter guidelines to correct for measurement factors which cause significant variations; Good idea, but didn't work so well, more equipment and help for each table needed; We understand better now on the use of the brix meter & Nicole spoke well as she got around the tables; Fantastic to see and be able to have a go at using or even see some of the tools being used. To know what they are for; Good to have practical tools and shown how they are used.

12.00 Lunch – Homemade Pies & Soup

Excellent x 2; Very good; Fantastic; Awesome; Ok; Delicious x 2; Excellent pies; Eat too much; Enjoyable & perfect; Excellent as usual; Great for this type of event; Yum; Excellent once again; Beautiful; Marvellous; Terrific; Really delicious lamb & mint pie; Very nice - mushroom soup please next time; Yum. The pumpkin soup was delicious;

Only had the soup, very tasty. The pies looked great too; Enjoyed the lunch couldn't ask for more; The best - great pies - soup could eat every day; Mmm - nice work. Did Justin make those?....; Absolutely delicious - finished up taking 12 home; Superb again - bought a lot to bring home; Brilliant job Seb, still waiting on those gluten free pies:) A high point, excellent food, well organised; Soup & pies warming & sustaining; Excellent - well done to all; Brilliant, as in previous years; Excellent as always - thank you; Amazing!! Absolutely loved the pumpkin soup pretty please:)

12.45 Farmer Experiences – Nev Lubke, Byron Schultz, Martin Royds

Very good; Well done; Good; Fantastic; Awesome more of this; Great; Good to hear of experiences on farm; Enjoyed their talks - always good to hear of farmers practical experiences; Loved the real farmers experiences. All three of them; Very enlightening, informative & encouraging; I liked this part. Its good to see some real results; Great to hear direct from farmer. Well done Nev...!; Down to earth - good to listen too, understanding what I do - how to improve property. Martin have again. Been trying different things working for farm - Buz down to earth easy listening; Good background and practical experience; Ok because I work in with Byron with interest; Very interesting, informative. Can't beat "down to earth" results; Learned most from Martin Royds esp about natural sequence farming actually applied to landscape & increase soil water. Learned also from Nev Lubke & Byron Schulz; Always good to hear other peoples experiences & interests; Interesting - very good of other farmers to share their experiences; All were very good & inspiring & helpful; Nev - It was good to hear a local speak about their farm. Byron - Had some good ideas. Martin - Clearly thinking outside the square; Buzz was great. All good, I particularly liked Martin's experiences on cattle; Excellent (especially Nev of course!) We feel the 'farmer experiences' are an excellent segment to include in each field days; Excellent balance to more scientific speakers. Martin Royds is a fantastic speaker & role model; Practical experiences save everyone time and their results encourage us to try different methods too. A great diversity between location & types of enterprises; Martin was the stand-out. The others lacked evidence to prove their results; Solid. Enjoyable. Practical; Both very good - didn't enjoy the bumbling bearded shearer much though!!!! (self analysis); Good to hear someone's history of what they did; Fascinating, frank and humorous -important part of the day; Martin needed to look at the audience more & not the screen with photos. I am encouraging him to practice his delivery; Brilliant. Loved hearing what they did, how they did it, and how the product has benefited them; I intend to take a farmer group to Martin Royds - would NutriSoil like to join in on this trip in co running it??;

All 3 farmers spoke well of their experiences in overcoming their individual problems and cost cutting methods using natural products like "NutriSoil" which gave them better results; I would love to have had more of these speakers, especially Martin. We are in a rain shadow in Stratford and the methods he used were interesting.

3.00 Panel of all speakers answering questions from audience

Good x 2; Worked well; Great way to end the day; Awesome – more of this!!; Sorry had to leave early; Left early but very good; Not as good as last year; Very important; All good; Excellent format; Useful; Went well; Ok; Excellent; Good - great to allow this time to enable audience to have some input & often the questions go on to answer something that you were wondering about; Brings out other experts & can hear other farmers concerns / queries by the questions they ask; Great Dr Ash Martin answered all questions - listening understanding better now; Ok I expect it will get bigger as the audience grows; Learned from answers to other people's questions; Good - a great chance to follow up and always good questions; Prefer their individual presentations; Very good - pity Nev didn't get any questions; Great. Bought up a lot of things not covered in talks; Perhaps better to only have the speakers up the front who have specifically been asked questions. Nev felt a little bit awkward sitting there for no input or questions; Loved panel of speakers - great idea. Also having written questions gives those an opportunity to ask when they might otherwise be too shy; Once again very beneficial. The question from the audience about using food-grade molasses was something new to us; Fantastic. Great questions & great answers; I think this was a very good idea. There were some good questions asked & answered; We thought the panel was very good this year. Pity everyone on our table found it hard to hear all that was said due to the rudeness of a table of men that was next to us. If they weren't interested they could have buggered off to the pub.

Individual Sessions Comments – Friday

9.15 Trials, Tribulations & Media Concerns – Rachelle Armstrong

Interesting; Good; Good start to the day; Good presentation; Interesting; Good overview; So true; Interesting always need to be aware of our intended message & the printed/reported result; Keep trying Rachelle. The truth needs to be heard; It was noted that the rain may prohibit some outdoor work. Well presented overview; I get the feeling biological farming is slowly gathering pace. As more people begin to use it, it will spread like wildfire!; Interesting. Good to break up presentations; Always a concern when driven by power & money;

Very good overview of current problems with farming systems in common use. Excellent talk on the nutrient density of beef and others; Interesting to hear problems of getting the "whole" story in its context to the people.

9.30 Capital Value of Improving Soil Health – Nicole Masters

Great x 2; Clear & concise; A good presentation; Valuable topic; Straight forward when you think about it; Carbon increased by 100% = 144,000l/ha; Interesting; Very informative; Good Information; Great again; EXCELLENT!! Most striking lecture of all top level talks given by Nicole Masters. Especially struck by Hendrikus Schrauer Soil Dynamics Water Trial. Most powerful thing learned on the 2 days & will apply to farm management practice; Brilliant speaker. Could listen to her for a very long time; Very good. My only concern is the delivery had to go fast to complete the time allocated - Ave age present of those present is close to 65!! Old men; Already believed in theory - good to see facts & figures presented although many pertained to NZ not Australian.

10.00 Getting Results from Natural Systems – Martin Royds

Very inspirational; Good; Interesting; Great; Much improved presentation; Already believed in theory; So interesting; Interesting concept & valuable experience shared; Great to see photos of before / after. Excellent presentation; Enjoyed the slideshow & information. Not sure that I agree totally with Peter Andrews ideas; Fantastic. Loved hearing Martin talk about his experiences; The more I see of this approach, the more I like it; Water plants increase water health. Will look at doing this in our own dam; Most beneficial talk I have heard of actual corrective action taken within farm landscape to increase soil water, decrease erosion, increase production pasture; A disciple of Peter Andrews who practices his method good!

10.30 Managing Soil Microbiology

Could've had more of this; Great x 2; Very interesting x 2; Very informative as to how soil microbes operate in soil; Excellent - interesting to learn about ways to improve / help the microbiology; Interesting; Can't remember; Tick; Found this the best of Ash Martin's talks, which plant residue breaks down fastest, by which microbiology therefore what conditions favour what type of biology to increase which plant species growth & decay. Can apply this knowledge to farm & garden!; Heavy! But I'm sure the soil microbiology test would be also an interesting monitoring tool;

Fungi growth and bacteria growth - protozoa starting to make sense now...!; Went shopping in Albury to boost the local economy!; Brilliant. Would also have loved a copy of slideshow to refer to later.

11.00 Visual Soil Assessment – Nicole Masters

Only scratched the surface; Good x 2; Great; Informative; Good. Hampered by not being in paddock; Great, once again thanks Nicole. Soil slide of table test I found very useful to prove benefits of soil health and biology, stabilising soils; I will take more notice of soil health perhaps, dig in different areas of paddock. Very powerful tool to seeing how your soil is; Very interesting & explanatory; Shame we couldn't get outside:(Can't remember - very fast delivery; Great speaker makes everything so easy to understand.

11.30 Role of Weeds & Daily Water Cycle – Martin Royds

Interesting; Good x 2; Great; Excellent; I have seen evidence of this on my partner's property. Not sure about the whole permaculture type attitude to weeds. Water management I found interesting; Try and get longer grass at dam inlet - great presentation. Most of could relate to; Challenging - a different slant; Very impressed with this. Looking at the whole cycle instead of one part; Weeds not for me. Water cycle good talk; Daily water cycle was new knowledge for me. Fascinating & will incorporate ideas in esp. grazing management and fence design for future hill paddocks & revegetation plantings; Very interesting not sure how it works under all types of different farming operations; Can't remember. We need those who are practical people and to remind us of what can be done; Transition from pioneer plants to nourishing plants.

12.15 Lunch – Roast Beef & Pumpkin Rolls & Soup

Excellent x 2; Ideal AGAIN!!; Very tasty lunch; Excellent lunch!; Great, excellent yumilicious!; Yum; Very good; Good; Very very good thank you; Very nice; Good but not as good as pies; Nothing wrong with the catering!; Mmm...I was full...! Delicious; I would leave the pumpkin out of roast beef. Good soup; Very very good. Thank you! Very good. Appreciated solid food in cold weather; Catering was amazing all weekend!!

1.15 Microscope Action – Nicole Masters & Dr Ash Martin

Another handy tool; Really enjoyed the quiz game!; Very good; Great; Was lost with delivery (I felt uneasy); Was fairly impromptu would be better if done again; More time & some copies of information would be good; Very interesting to see them move & size etc; Incredible and very interesting to watch. Brings it all to life; Protozoa eats bacteria. This was great. Clever to get vision up on projector from microscope; Very useful to have a concept of how the different microscopic life forms look & move and exist. Fleshed out the imagination gives a real life mind picture of what's going on in soil; Just amazing to see the microbes etc moving, interacting; ☹ - missed it; Not much use for microscopes in a pasture situation unless you are making your own compost teas; Difficult to see live bacteria. All slides look the same. Helpful presentation however.

2.00 Worm-talk, Feeding Demo DVD, Windrow Chat – Rachelle Armstrong

What a wonderful natural creature; Great work; Very interesting x 2; Very good; I missed this part; Interesting. Good to see how windrows work; Great to get people out into the field and show them what you're up to. Thanks, great also for questions; Had to leave, were committed elsewhere; Can't comment - took photos from side. This was educational. Good to see how it was produced even though a plant on the windrow had very low brix reading; We did the walk and talk last time and found it very interesting. Unfortunately we had to leave before this; Very good. Needs to be done, something similar every year; Missed most of Rachelle. Big crowd & hard to hear; ☹ - missed it. Had to dash off unexpectedly as my dog had collapsed due to spider / snakebite. Good news though my dog pulled through & is ok.

3.00 Panel

Good; A good wrap up; Had to go. Still full from lunch...!; Great lot of questions & answers; Loved it; Learnt a lot from responses to questions; Very important; Great idea, good way to review; Left too early couldn't stay for panel; Very good got whole audience involved; Once again a great idea; I missed this part.

Event Logistics / Planning

How did you find the Venue & Equipment for Learning?

Great wouldn't change a thing **TOTAL** **34** **or** **60%**

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

- Been exhausted.
- Changed nothing!!
- Much better with tables for groups to discuss things said in talks to get to know other peoples farming solutions.
- More farmer talks - experiences with your product.
- Tables excellent and good for meeting others too.
- But got a bit warm in the afternoon, a bit of fresh air in would have been good.
- Comfortable, warm, great food.
- I would have had more garlic presses.
- Not been able to do such a good job.
- Paid the sun-god to shine more.
- Would a short question time after each presentation be possible?
- Cardboard cups instead of foam.
- I think the spraying of plants was a great & interesting idea, but needed more time & structure.
- Dancing girls?
- Very good but put more organisation into the experiment each group table undertook & conveying the results to the entire class.
- Congratulations, you had the venue cosy and warm. Audio could have been a little louder at the back.

- More facts & figures Australian based. NZ may be very similar but when quoting statistics I would like them to be closer to home.
- Was superbly catered, venue was brilliant. Weather-proof. Sat near a heater which was later moved:(Assumed it was so others at the back could see. Once the room warmed up it wasn't an issue.

Was the day well facilitated/organised?

Great, everything ran smoothly... TOTAL 37 or 65%

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

- The second day field work could maybe have gone ahead somehow?
- Advertised the dinner on the arrival night so we could meet new people that is pre confirmed at the hotel.
- Some of it was a bit technical.
- Very smooth...!
- Endeavoured to do the same!!
- Thank you for the glasses.
- Start earlier eg. 9am. More time for invited speakers also from farmers attending to speak of their success & failures etc.
- I would have done nothing different.
- Friday was good after you had to change the program due to weather. I only attended on Friday.
- Not changed a thing - your flexibility in light of the weather was very good.
- Prepared a handout and set up procedures to quote each table through their respective experiments.
- Unfortunately too much confusion on what each group was required to do.
- So well done it would have been so easy to get bogged down but everything went smoothly. Thank you.
- Fantastic job.