

# Being Green and in the Black

## Border Landcare Organic Group

### Fact Sheet 4

# Fact Sheet 4

## Contacts, Links and Information

#### What is this fact sheet about?

A key feature of Biological Farming principles is the underlying view of the soil as a living system, which the farmer, in harmony with nature, should seek to develop. We all know that the info is out there, but finding it is not always easy. Hopefully, this fact sheet will help you find some of the information to assist. Note that comments and selections are the opinion of the editors and are not endorsements or recommendations.

#### Books

This list is limited.

Online bookstores are good. As are libraries.

Some websites allow the download of books as pdf files.

The [SARE website](#) has several books available.

"[Managing Insects on Your Farm: A Guide to Ecological Strategies](#)"

"[Building Soils for Better Crops, 2nd edition](#)"

"[Managing Cover Crops Profitably, 3rd Edition](#)"

Soil and Health has an [Online Library](#) for downloading books on Agriculture as PDF. ([www.soilandhealth.org](http://www.soilandhealth.org))

#### Journals and Publications

[Acres Australia](#) The national newspaper of sustainable agriculture; infrequent but excellent. Back copies are available. Visit the comprehensive [online bookstore](#).

Each of the [organic certifying bodies](#) has their **own journal**, which can be subscribed to, but also they have **free ezines** available to all.

[Farm Online](#) is the one stop for all Rural Press publications including [Australian Landcare Magazine](#). ([www.farmonline.com.au](http://www.farmonline.com.au))

#### US sites:

[Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#) ([www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org))

The database [Agricola](#) (abstracts/citations only.) ([agricola.nal.usda.gov](http://agricola.nal.usda.gov)) [SAREP](#) has a great site for info particularly [cover crops](#) and a good [newsletter](#) (<http://www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/newsletters/newsletters.htm>)

[Attra](#) National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service ([www.attra.org/](http://www.attra.org/))

Midwestern Bio Ag is a premier site for Biological farming. See the [Biological farming](#) link, for the six rules, Q & A etc. ([www.midwesternbioag.com](http://www.midwesternbioag.com))

#### Research and Information

The state Departments of Primary Industries are a good place to start; Agnotes, Fact Sheets etc.

DPI's have a library and a bookshop. They also have journals or can access them from other offices.

Australia (<http://www.rirdc.gov.au/aqfacts/>)

Victoria ([www.dpi.vic.gov.au/notes/](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/notes/))

NSW [Soil Biology Basics](#) Fact sheets ([www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets/soil-biology-basics/](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/aboutus/resources/factsheets/soil-biology-basics/))

QLD has [Organic News](#) available at [www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/organics/](http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/organics/)

[Land and Water Australia](#) (research areas on right sidebar), possibly the premier research body in Australia. See the [Publications and Tool](#) page and the [Healthy Soils Project](#) and [symposium](#)

[AANRO](#) Australian Data base ([www.aanro.net/](http://www.aanro.net/))

[Soil Food Web](#) click on the "Understanding the Soil Food Web" button

[Ausveg](#) ([www.ausveg.com.au](http://www.ausveg.com.au)) have a look at their [EnviroVeg](#) program.

[The Healthy Soils Ute Guide](#) is available at [healthysoils.arris.net.au](http://healthysoils.arris.net.au)

[HAL](#) Horticulture Australia ([www.horticulture.com.au](http://www.horticulture.com.au))

[Agrisolutions](#) have an informative site, with a [newsletter](#) and [fact sheets](#). ([www.agriculturalsolutions.com.au](http://www.agriculturalsolutions.com.au))

[Growcom](#), ([www.growcom.com.au](http://www.growcom.com.au)) has a collection of [Fact Sheets](#) dealing with [Farm Management](#). These Fact sheets have good references to follow up.

#### Landcare

[Landcare Australia](#) [www.landcareonline.com](http://www.landcareonline.com)

This site has links to all [state Landcare bodies](#) (Landcare partners/govt partners) and [local Landcare groups](#) (community care groups)

#### Other Fact Sheets in this series:

- 1 - Soil and Water Management
- 2 - Inputs
- 3 - Plant Protection
- 4 - Contacts, Links etc
- 5 - Conversion to Organics

Sustainable / Organic / Biological?

What does it mean...go to <http://www.nal.usda.gov/afsic/pubs/agnic/susag.shtml> or <http://www.attra.ncat.org/fundamental.html>

One thing they all have in common is the similar approach to soil management. But remember when searching sites that you may need to use all three!!

#### Interesting fact

In 2001, farmers managed farmland which covered 62% of Australia's land mass. Also 91% of farmers were members of a family, and the total no of farming families was 112,753.

(Source: ABS "Australian Farming In Brief:2001")

#### Search Tip

A Google search of *Biological Farming* netted 21,900 results ...in Australia! But putting it in inverted commas "*Biological Farming*" reduced this to 1,310.

#### Remember..

Most websites have a "links" page, and are usually worth having a look at. For example, "The Organic Centre" ([www.organic-center.org](http://www.organic-center.org)) has "[Science Resources](#)" from across the world.

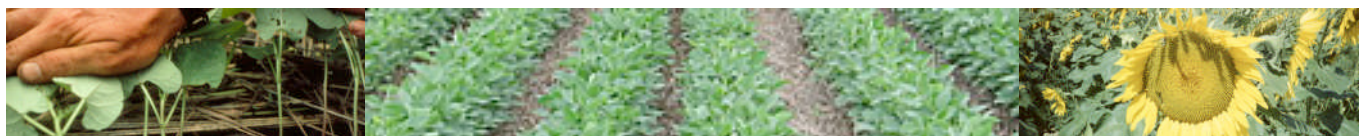
If you view this **online**, you can use the hotlinks embedded in the highlighted text and go directly to the page.

Subscribing to ezines is easy.

But first you need the link to their websites. This fact sheet has contact details for many organizations. But there are other ways. eg this site, [Savvy Frog](#) [www.savvyfrog.com/Science/Agriculture/Farming\\_Practices\\_and\\_Systems/](http://www.savvyfrog.com/Science/Agriculture/Farming_Practices_and_Systems/) has some to start with.

The [Worldwide Soil Health Information Portal](#) has links to audio visuals (watch slideshows on line etc) databases, search engines and more. ([mulch.mannlib.cornell.edu](http://mulch.mannlib.cornell.edu))

Have you thought of doing a search through your **public library**? If you are a library member then you can search online. Ask your librarian how.



### **General Contact Info:**

#### **ACRES AUSTRALIA**

The national newspaper of sustainable agriculture  
(www.acresaustralia.com.au)  
http://www.acresaustralia.com.au/bookstore/

**Ausmin** leading suppliers of fertiliser and livestock products to the Australian farming community for over 10 years.  
(admin@ausmin.net.au)

**BioAg** suppliers of mineral nutrients. Look at the [Improving Natural Fertility](#) page.  
(www.bioag.com.au)

**Nutri-Tech Solutions** develop a wide range of products that support Biological Farming and conduct training courses.  
(www.nutri-tech.com.au). Their [Links](#) page is on the Home page, "About Us"

The **Nuffield** website:  
(www.nuffield.com.au)  
Go to the [IFA](#) page for the annual Innovative Farming Australia Conferences, to download pdfs of the presentations, including Nuffield scholar, Cathy Harvey's, interesting [power point](#).

**Biological Farmers of Australia** is the largest biological grower group in Australia. Have a look at their [Industry Resources Index](#).  
(www.bfa.com.au)

**Rodale Institute** New Farm farmer to Farmer Know How (US Site)  
(www.newfarm.org/)

NASAA has a large [links](#) page

**Biodynamic Association of Australia**  
(www.biodynamics.net.au)

**Permaculture Research Institute**  
(www.permaculture.org.au)

### **New Site to be launched in 2008**

**Beyond Drought** says that this site is "A much needed cross-reference tool, (and) Beyond Drought is a necessary prerequisite for a sustainable future." the site will contain info on topics from Animals to the Weather.  
(www.beyonddrought.com.au)

### **Ezines or email newsletters**

Most of the certifying bodies, regional natural resource management groups (eg CMA's etc), distributors and manufacturers of biological products will have an ezine service. Go to the site and follow the links.

In this list, the organisation name has a link to the newsletter "sign on" page.

Most are archived, so you can look at back copies first.

Here are some which we think may be useful:

#### **Soil Food Web**

(www.soilfoodweb.com.au) has [Archived](#) newsletters. The [September 2007](#) issue has a several links to US compilation sites. Internet sources, data bases and research journals. This organisation specialises in the science of compost and the study of microbiology.

#### **From the Soil Up**

(www.fromthesoilup.com.au) "a website dedicated to the open dissemination of knowledge. Contains info from a wide range of sources, scientific, commercial, anecdotal and live, all pulled together using a good dose of logical reasoning and common sense."

**Organic Advantage** published by the BFA has less of the agriculture and more of the "organic industry" info, research, regulation, GE, health etc.

**Organic Federation of Australia** is a peak body for the organic industry.  
(www.ofa.org.au)

The **Soil Health** (www.soilhealth.com) site is now defunct, but the [archived newsletters](#) are still there. This great site, initially funded by the Potter Foundation, is focused on the biological process in the soil. Easy to use and heaps of info. For example, we know what the rhizosphere is but what is the rhizoplane. Go to [Roots](#) and find out.

### **Organic Certification Bodies:**

This list of [Approved Certifying Organisations](#) is from AQIS.

#### **Aus Qual**

PO Box 3175,  
SOUTH BRISBANE QLD 4101  
Phone: 07 3361 9200  
Fax: 07 3361 9222  
Email: [ausqual@ausqual.com.au](mailto:ausqual@ausqual.com.au)  
Web: [www.ausqual.com.au](http://www.ausqual.com.au)

#### **Australian Certified Organic (ACO)**

PO Box 530  
CHERMESIDE QLD 4032  
Phone: 07 3350 5716  
Fax: 07 3350 5996  
Email: [info@australianorganic.com.au](mailto:info@australianorganic.com.au)  
Web: [www.australianorganic.com.au](http://www.australianorganic.com.au)

#### **BioDynamic Research Institute**

Post Office  
POWELLTOWN VIC 3797  
Phone: 03 5966-7333  
Fax: 03 5966 7433  
Web: [www.demeter.org.au](http://www.demeter.org.au)

#### **National Association for Sustainable Agriculture in Australia (NASAA)**

PO Box 768  
STIRLING WA 5152  
Phone: 08 8370 8455  
Fax: 08 8370 8381  
Email: [enquiries@nasaa.com.au](mailto:enquiries@nasaa.com.au)  
Web: [www.nasaa.com.au](http://www.nasaa.com.au)

#### **Organic Food Chain (OFC)**

PO Box 2390  
TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350  
Phone: 07 4637 2600  
Fax: 07 4696 7689  
Email: [ofc@organicfoodchain.com.au](mailto:ofc@organicfoodchain.com.au)  
Web: [www.organicfoodchain.com.au](http://www.organicfoodchain.com.au)

#### **Safe Food Production Qld**

PO Box 440  
SPRING HILL QLD 4004  
Phone: 07 3253 9800  
Fax: 07 3253 9824  
Email: [info@safefood.qld.gov.au](mailto:info@safefood.qld.gov.au)  
Web: [www.safefood.qld.gov.au](http://www.safefood.qld.gov.au)

#### **Tasmanian Organic-Dynamic Producers**

PO Box 434  
MOWBRAY HEIGHTS TAS 7248  
Phone: 03 6363 5162  
Fax: 03 6363 5162  
Email: [tas\\_organicdynamic@yahoo.com](mailto:tas_organicdynamic@yahoo.com)

This Fact Sheet is also available online at the BLOG website  
(www.granitenet.net.au/groups/BorderLandcareOrganicGroup/page.cfm) or at the BLOG Wiki  
(gb-blog.wikispaces.com/)

This project supported by:



**Disclaimer - The information contained in this publication is intended for general use, to assist public knowledge and discussion and to help improve the sustainable management of land, water and vegetation. Readers are advised and need to be aware that this information may be incomplete or unsuitable for specific situations. Before taking any action or decision based on the information in this publication, readers should seek expert professional, scientific and technical advice. To the extent permitted by law, Border Landcare Organic Group, Granite Borders Landcare Committee Incorporated and the Border Rivers Gwydir Catchment Management Authority do not assume liability of any kind whatsoever resulting from any person's use or reliance upon the content of this publication.**