

"Every farm problem has a natural answer"

Special points of interest:

- ◆ *Locusts*
- ◆ *Homoeopathics For Winter*
- ◆ *More good results with worm teas*

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Farming Secrets Guarantees Profitable Healthy Sustainable Farming With Less Hard Yakka More Time and More Joy

Welcome to our 17th Edition! It is really exciting to see the growing numbers of farmers committed to biological farming. Remember if you are not sure what to do first, give us a call to for support. We'd love to have a chat.

Exciting news!**Dr Elaine Ingham** is back in Australia. She has recently been appointed Chief Scientist, Rodale Institute which has been measuring organic v chemical farming since 1947. So catch her while you can. Do all you can to attend her talk on 18.08

Find your invitation to a day with Elaine inside! It will be a doozy of a day with much to hear about and discuss. **Don't Miss this day! Book Now!**



Elaine at Mary Cole's

We have been very pleased to see so many of our experts in the press and in the ABC Landline series **Biological Boom**. Amongst them Gerhard Grasser, David Davidson, Jordan Grasser, Helen Disler, Dr. Christine Jones, Tony Evans, Rob Sutherland and Gary Zimmer who will be back for the **BFA Roadshows** in October. We will be travelling with him to all 6 states so look forward to meeting some of you soon!

Look who's NSW Farmer of the year 2011! Norm Smith



Norm runs 'Glenwood', a 2800ha grazing property 29 km east of Wellington in a way that balances the needs of the environment, profit, family and community. Norm is a

fourth generation farmer on his land and his wife and five children help him run the farm. The Glenwood merino stud was established in 1929. All livestock are managed to minimise chemical use and mulesing ceased in 2005. Glenwood runs predominantly a SRS® merino breeding enterprise including 700 stud ewes and 3500 flock ewes. Norm sells about 100 rams per year. Glenwood also engages in cattle trading when the seasons allow.

Twelve years ago Norm and his wife Pip completed a holistic management course through the Orange Agricultural College. The skills they acquired on that course saw them pioneer planned grazing management on Glenwood. Norm has encouraged greater diversity of desirable species with rotational grazing enabling short graze periods and long rest periods. The benefits of this have been numerous, including 100% ground cover, a huge increase in diversity of perennial plant species, an improvement in soil nutrition and microbial activity, an increase in soil organic matter, increased water holding capacity, no need for artificial fertilisers and reduced chemical use. Norm is a leader in measuring the impacts of his management on the farm ecosystem. He is one of a small number of graziers who commenced an early stage land health monitoring program called "Ecocheck." This program monitors paddock changes each year and has documented very

significant improvements to the health of Glenwood over many years. Norm has also been a pioneer in recognising the important role that native perennial plants have in the landscape and is a recognised local expert in the grazing community on grazing management of perennials.

Quick to recognise the changing consumer trends and demand for products that are ecologically and ethically sound, Norm is well placed to take advantage of the increasing opportunities that this presents.

Glenwood averages approximately 650mm of rainfall per year and Norm has recognised that with significant climate variability comes the need to have a very resilient land base which can adapt quickly to change. Not only is Glenwood now sustainable, it is regenerative and will be healthy and productive for many generations to come.

Find out more about Norm Smith here!

Did you know that Norm Smith is one of 6 farmers who presented at **Stipa's** Native Grasslands conference and we captured it all on film? It is a **must-see** set of DVDs—**3 in the set available for only \$30 RRP.** (285 minutes) This recording shows successful farmers who thrive by encouraging the regeneration of native grasses in drought times.

It truly is a case of seeing is believing that by keeping as much ground cover as possible and through management of stock that so much can be achieved. **If you are wishing to discover how to maintain stock numbers and increase soil carbon while also increasing feed reserves** then grab your own copy now. It is inspiring viewing. **CDs are also available \$15**

Trekking around with Hugo and Helen

This photo was taken at the Davison's farm at Candelo when we were checking the pH of the clover compared to the African lovegrass. There had



been no rain but along all the edges of the leaves and stems of the plant were tiny drops of dew. It is clear evidence that when there is ground cover there is moisture captured by the vegetation. Bruce actually lasted throughout the drought with no hand feeding and only a little over a 10% reduction of his stocking rate which was higher than the recommended rate for the district.

A close up of Bruce using the soil pH kit

to quickly show the condition of his soil. He took one amongst the clover and followed up with one where the African Lovegrass grew. We were



impressed with the simplicity and speed with which Bruce did the testing so resolved to make the kits available to you all. To watch how easy it is to use the kit you can see for yourself at:

<http://farmingsecretsblog.com>

Type in **pH soil kit**

From the Davison's farm at Candelo we drove to Dalmeny where we spent a couple of nights with relatives who have a beautiful view over Lake Mummaga. In fact we both fell in love with that area of coastline as we travelled up to Moruya to film Maarten's presentation the following day



Maarten with Peter Gow who manages 23 Landcare groups in the Eurobodalla region!

Healthy Soils/Healthy Foods.

Maarten really made it clear that biological farming was the way forward for the future both for the farmer and the consumer.

Although the day became rather bleak the attendees stayed onto learn about the Rhizosphere around the root zone, how to use a brix meter and to see the use of a penetrometer.

STOP PRESS!!! Just back from 2 days at Nutrisoil Open Day with **Dr. Christine Jones, Nicole Masters and Graeme Hand** where the message was clear: Keep the soil covered, weeds do a job, farm with nature, find a mentor. A summary will be available, so ask for a copy or stay tuned!

The Worm Farmer's Diary

Beth and I have just returned from visiting the Davisons' Candelo property, NSW. We met up with Helen, Hugo and Maarten to learn from Bruce how he had drought proofed his 380acre grazing property and made it the standout property in the district. Over the past ten years, his fertiliser program consisted of applying worm leachate, controlled grazing and slashing. Such has been his success that he was recently featured in "Acres USA" & his farm is now part of ongoing studies by the NSW Dept of Environment as well as local Land Care groups. We are eagerly looking forward to the upcoming Farming Secrets "Walk the Talk"



On the local front, ...**exciting news**... for the past two years, we have been supplying the Creswick Novotel Resort Golf Club with our Worm Tea. They have been applying it to their Greens and Fairways via the irrigation system during the growing seasons. It was just announced that the Club has been awarded the contract to hold the Victorian PGA Championships for the next 5 years. To get this, they had to undergo an intensive examination process and were competing against a large number of other highly successful clubs.

The above two examples confirm the faith we have had in Natural products being able to compete with the Synthetic Fertiliser Industry. That's all for now, Happy Worm Farming. Cheers, David Davidson. davidd@aussiebroadband.com.au

Tigger Tales! for all her farmyard friends.

I've added vitamin supplement to my diet and I'm feeling much better because I can eat bones now without being sick

I haven't told you about how important bones are for the health of your gums and teeth because they sometimes just don't go down well with me. But Hugo was talking to the lady who cooks up my kangaroo jerky and she told him about DigestaVite Plus and insisted I try it to help me digest my bones. She told Hugo that there is no substitute for bones and suggested I get soft chicken wing bones and take the supplement to start me off. But Hugo and Helen haven't found any bones yet as they are looking for an organic source. I know that they are busy but I wish they'd hurry up as I know that I would like the chicken bones, in fact I like all the raw bones I eat—it's just that they often make me sick. I'll let you know how I go next Digest.



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Request your "Farming Secrets Starter Tool Kit" \$7 p&h
Simply return the form enclosed or visit our website at:
www.farmingsecrets.com

DVD Review: Cancer Is Curable NOW Rating: *****

Having had cancer and constantly meeting people who have cancer I couldn't resist getting this DVD in to our store. The DVD was initiated by a naturopath who was keen to discover who was finding a cure for cancer holistically.

They interviewed 31 practitioners around the world. Their claim is that cancer is not cured with medicine or drugs but with knowledge.

"The doctor of the future will give no medicine, but will interest his patients in the CARE of the human frame as well as PREVENTION of disease!" Thomas Edison

Preview trailer to find out more at: www.canceriscurablenow.tv

So then I thought about how I am using the strips from **Easy pH Test Kits** to monitor my health. I believe that I need to maintain a pH of at least 7 to maintain good health. So I bought in some **Easy pH Test Kits** with instruction booklets for folk who'd like to go down the same track. The strips are easy to use and the comparison chart is very good. I must say I am much happier to follow what foods actually make me either acidic or alkaline as we all react differently. See the **New Products** for more info.

Special Price
For Farming Secrets
Only \$27



GOLD NUGGET

Hi to our valuable "Farming Secrets Club" members both new and old. Are you enjoying your weekly **Gold Nuggets** for members only?

A 4 part series on **Weeds** contributed by Cheryl Kemp was provocative: **Weeds As Messengers Most people think along the same lines of KILL KILL KILL as in conventional agriculture. I want them to look at why the weeds are there and what they are telling them—and how they are trying to help!! Then get some soil tests to see what is going on.**

Each part looked at weeds in different situations and introduced the idea of Peppering—a bit like homoeopathy. Another Gold Nugget looked at reducing the damage done when using a weedicide by buffering. Then we had a series on nutrient dense food and its importance for all of us. It involved a series on the brix meter which is one tool that can be used to measure the value of the food produced. Keep an eye on the blog as I will put some very interesting facts for all to see which reveals the continued loss of minerals and vitamins in conventional foods.

"Farming Secrets Club" Members Corner!



Member Murray Morrison from Qld. & daughter Paula called in to visit

Govt. should fund biological farming

"I have been driving a header and have finally caught up on my listening to all the CD's. They are great and I am enjoying them immensely. I listened to them on the weekend instead of listening to the ABC (sport) If the Vic Govt would sponsor 3 and a bit Million Dollars for biological farming they would get better bang for their buck. Keep up the good work."
Martin J. Williams, Katherine NT

100% lambing with no losses

Big changes. Since giving free choice minerals to his sheep Neville has had 100% lambing, no loss of ewes, no prolapses and despite the severe cold they are doing well. As told to Hugo by Neville Bond, Talbot, Vic



Tom's free choice trailer.
Note: Trampoline flap on front!
Improvement with free lick
"I am very pleased with your advice several months ago to use a free lick. The improvement in the look and general wellbeing of the cattle is quite noticeable. I also believe the paddock/pasture has improved as a result of the return of the minerals to the soil in the manure and a lower Ph of the urine due to the use of BiCarb Soda in the free lick. I wish to supplement the young calves to encourage bone growth. Can you please explain which calcium I should use?"
Tom Stone Oxenford , QLD



WANTED! People to help us get the good news out! Email: helen@farmingsecrets.com for extra copies.
Have YOU got a great farm story for your fellow farmers? Email or Contact Us Now on: 1800 800 466
