

Being Green and in the Black

Border Landcare Organic Group

Fact Sheet 4

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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)

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)

US sites:

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

The database [Agricola](#) (abstracts/citations only.) (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/)

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)

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/)

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

QLD has [Organic News](#) available at 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/)

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

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

[The Healthy Soils Ute Guide](#) is available at healthysoils.aris.net.au

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

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

[Growcom](#), (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

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) has "[Science Resources](#)" from across the world.

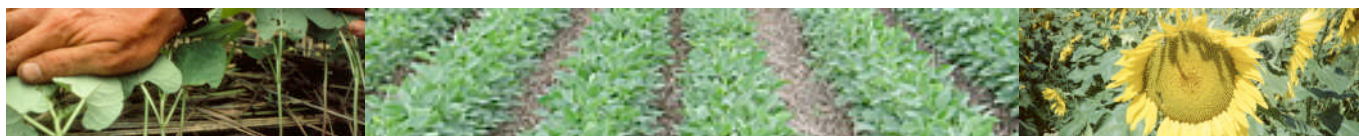
If you view this **online**, you can use the hotlinks embedded in the highlighted text and go directly to the page.

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/ 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)

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
 Web: www.ausqual.com.au

Australian Certified Organic (ACO)

PO Box 530
 CHERMSIDE QLD 4032
 Phone: 07 3350 5716
 Fax: 07 3350 5996
 Email: info@australianorganic.com.au
 Web: 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

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
 Web: 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
 Web: 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
 Web: 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

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/)

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