

SUBMISSION NO. 3

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The Secretary
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

12 April 2005

Secretary: Section RECEIVED

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACIDICITURE, FISHERIES AS DIOPESTRY

Dear Sir

RE: Agricultural Training

Agricultural Training & Research need to include practicable courses

Today's agronomist lack full understanding of soil and soil

life.

There is not enough knowledge of opening the soil up to let moisture in or closing it up to keep moisture in.

Fertilizer and Chemical companies have control of the way our future agricultural leaders are taught.

The whole procedure is around no till that has heaps of chemicals applied and fertilizer.

End result soils become lifeless.

On the Liverpool plains and downs country farmers who wish to incorporate crop residue find that it will not break down.

From overuse of the chemical Nitrogen and Fertilizer, soils have gone to Aldehyde stage, meaning crop residue will not break down.

In the Narrabri area after years of cropping, when the soil reaches the stage where cropping cannot be carried out, agronomists recommend Lucerne be sown.

This is the same as when the vet gets your race horse with a high white cell count.

With a few tablets from the health shop a champion horse was saved from the paddock

He went to Sydney Easter Carnival 1904 won an important race, then the Derby.

The Old fashioned farmer cultivated his soil in the spring before seed set and kept under fallow. In that period the soil took up the moisture.

Mallee farmers after light rain dragged their tyne harrows to mix the moisture with the soil. This method retained the moisture.

No till farming was introduced by the chemical and fertilizer companies.

I am 76 years of age.

When the no till farmer wins the crop competition the trumpet is sounded, plus there is rural paper coverage.

Conventional farmers don't get much recognition, in fact I know a farmer who had a winning crop. The man who was representing the judge's organisation, informed the farmer that he had the best crop but could not give him the prize because he was not practising sustainable farming.

This farmer is one who pays attention to detail in having proper mineral balances, calcium and magnesium.

I know farmers who have had problems getting moisture into their soil, having erosion and run off.

After turning to some serious cultivation the situation was reversed.

This farmer was

being advised how to grow crop on a no till basis.

A big majority of Australia's farming soils need opening up to let the moisture in.

Current training at AG Colleges and university are against farming this and using all the chemicals and fertilizers possible.

Points are awarded by companies to salesmen for chemical sales ect.

The same as points are awarded

to our doctors.

This system has been allowed to develop by our governments, for not putting enough money in for training.

Trainees or students need to know what causes Formaldehyde and other Aldehydes. Students need to be trained in balancing the soil.

Currently our fruit and vegetables are going into the supermarket stores ect with extremely low refractometer reading.

A classical example is tomatoes with readings below 4, when a good reading is 12.

This is the way all governments have allowed our fruit and vegetable to deteriate.

The refractometer tells you if the acids are high or if the fruit ect is more alkaline.

Agronomists tell us it only

read the sugars.

Those boys need some serious retraining.

Don't forget this is what our governments are allowing to

happen.

More sick people using up good money health

money.

The Hamish people generally produce far superior products.

Our organic farmers are heading

in the right direction.

With proper mineral balances insects will not touch these crops. But go for the inferior next row.

Foliar feeding of

crops is an important roll.

The Borr

This is adding some extras to the crop in the growing stage.

Weed can be killed in the white stage by light cultivation.

Yours sincerely

Roy Carr Director