

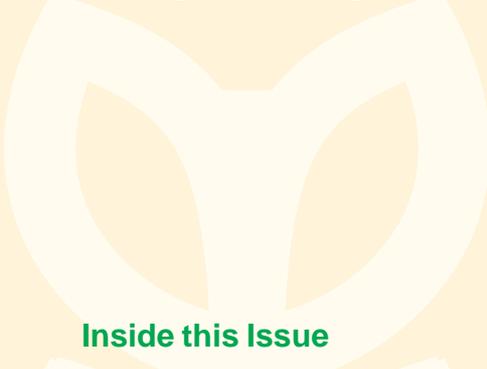


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# Organic News.

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NSW DEPARTMENT OF  
PRIMARY INDUSTRIES

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## Closing the link between organic farming and human health

The BBC News recently reported on a study that quantified that organic milk was 'higher in vitamins'. The research by Danish Institute of Agricultural Research, showed organic milk has higher levels of vitamin E, omega 3 essential fatty acids and antioxidants, which help beat infections. Milk was tested from cows that were farmed organically and conventionally.

The study found cows farmed organically produced milk which was, on average, 50% higher in Vitamin E than conventionally produced milk. The organic milk was also 75% higher in beta carotene, which is converted into Vitamin A in the body. It was also two to three times higher in the antioxidants lutein and zeaxanthine. Antioxidants are the naturally occurring substances in plants that protect the body from free radicals - 'bad' chemicals in the blood. Free radicals alter cholesterol in a process known as oxidation, which is thought to speed up the hardening of the arteries. Higher levels of omega 3 essential fatty acids, which are believed to help provide protection from coronary heart disease, were also found in organic milk.

The few studies available that analyse the quantity and quality of nutritional and active ingredients in organically grown produce are beginning to show a definite positive trend towards human health benefits.

Different food production methods may result in differences in the content of secondary metabolites such as polyphenolic compounds. Secondary phenolic metabolites play an important role in plant defence mechanisms, and increasing evidence indicates that many are important in human health.

Organically grown plants, which as a rule produce high levels of self-defence compounds, may, in fact, be better for your health. Take, for example, the results of recent research into resverotrol, an anti-oxidant compound found in red grapes that has been shown to lower cholesterol. Researchers have found that grapes sprayed with fungicides commonly used on conventional vineyards had 80 per cent less resverotrol than organically produced grapes.

Resverotrol occurs in grapes as a defence compound produced in a process known as systemic acquired resistance (SAR). SAR in plants produces many types of defence compounds and is induced by low-to-

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medium levels of pathogen and insect attack. It goes without saying that organically grown crops would have SAR induction occurring on a regular basis, since organic farmers do not, for the most part, use eradication as an approach to pest management and commonly have low levels of pests as part of their overall equilibrium.

Salicylic acid is also an important signal molecule in plant defence. Researchers from the University of Strathclyde, Scotland, have found that organic vegetable soups contain almost six times as much salicylic acid as non-organic vegetable soups. The acid is responsible for the anti-inflammatory action of aspirin, and may have many health benefits. Patients who take aspirin have a reduced risk of developing atherosclerosis and colorectal cancer, both of these pathologies having an inflammatory component. Dietary salicylic acid may help to prevent these conditions.

A review of existing literature, by The University of Oslo, reveals that organic foods compared to conventionally produced foods seem to have a higher content of antioxidants in plant products and a higher content of fat-soluble vitamins and omega-3 fatty acids in animal products. Animal studies (among them, on rabbits and chickens) show higher fertility and less morbidity in animals fed organically. Furthermore, when given a choice, animals prefer organic to conventionally produced fodder. It is not possible to draw conclusions from these studies on health effects on humans. So far there have been no controlled studies in humans that have assessed such effects, though a higher content of antioxidants have been found in the urine of subjects put on an organic diet. In summary, a change to an organic diet may have a direct positive health effect on humans, as well as an indirect effect through a healthier environment.

Further animal studies by the Danish Institute of Agricultural Sciences, found that an organic diet improved immune status, gave a tendency towards less deposits of adipose tissue and a better ability to have quality rest times.

Californian studies have revealed that organic crops contained significantly more vitamin C, iron, magnesium, and phosphorus and significantly less nitrates than conventional crops. There were non-significant trends showing less protein but of a better quality and a higher content of nutritionally significant minerals with lower amounts of some heavy metals in organic crops compared to conventional ones.

There is limited funding currently available to research the potential benefits of organic farming and food to our environment and to human health and wellbeing. It is, however, an exciting and promising development in our agricultural sector.

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## Organic farming in France, spelt and organic research highlighted at 'Buronga' field day

French organic farmer and marketer Pierre de Contes was guest speaker at a field day held at David and Mary Booth's property 'Buronga' near Cootamundra on February 10th. Pierre was having a well-earned 'organic' interlude from a hectic schedule as a speaker at the Grain Research and Development Corporation's (GRDC) annual Grower Updates where he was talking about what is driving the expansion of the organic broadacre cropping market in Europe, as well as the market potential in Australia.

Pierre began farming organically approximately 30 years ago following a trip to the USA. When he began farming organically there were around 200 organic farmers in France, now with increased environmental awareness (largely as a result of chemical contamination of ground water) and improved economic returns, there are around 12, 000 organic farmers. French organic grain growers are currently receiving a price premium that's about double that paid for conventionally grown grain.

Pierre's 90 hectare farm is located in the French province of Normandy, approximately 100 kilometres west of Paris. He produces wheat, barley, oats, spelt, rye, buck wheat, linseed, broad beans and lucerne in a 9-year rotation. The annual rainfall for the region is 600 millimetres.

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Not too unlike his Australian counterparts, Pierre sees his greatest challenge as weeds. He outlined a number of mechanical control methods, but emphasised the importance of observation and making the correct choice of crops and where each crop is placed in the rotation, to successfully manage weeds.

Pierre stressed to field day participants that whilst it is great that he can produce a product without chemical sprays, the end product still had to be good quality. This has been brought home to him as the manager of a regional milling cooperative, where organic farmers are paid based on the milling quality of the grain they deliver.

Following Pierre's talk and an excellent organic lunch it was off to the field to check out David and Mary's cropping and livestock enterprises. Previously featured in 'Organic News' (Vol. 1, Issue 9 September 2004), 'Buronga' produces organic livestock (1300 goats, 1300 sheep, 150 cattle) on 1200 hectares of grazing and cropping land.

David had just finished harvesting his first spelt crop. Spelt (*Triticum aestivum* spp. *spelta*) is an ancient form of wheat that is becoming increasingly popular in health food markets. The grain is naturally high in fiber, and contains more protein than wheat. Spelt is also higher in B complex vitamins, and both simple and complex carbohydrates. Another benefit is that some gluten-sensitive people have been able to include spelt-based foods in their diet.

David supplies his spelt to 'Green Grove Organics' (see their website: <http://www.greengroveorganics.com/licorice.html>) where it is manufactured into organic spelt flour and then used in the production of organic licorice. 'Green Grove' is currently undersupplied with spelt and David has already secured a market for his next crop. Whilst yields of spelt are low (1.9 tonnes per hectare) returns of \$1,000 per tonne (de-hulled, weighed & bulka bag price) are comparable to what could be received from organic wheat. Spelt seed quality is extremely variable and it was felt that significant yield, and potentially quality, improvements could be made by selecting the better seed for re-planting. NSW DPI is currently discussing options to undertake some trials for variety improvement and selection this coming season.



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The field day then heard from CSIRO researcher Maaten Stapper. Maarten is currently working with GRDC funding in the Southern Region on the evaluation of high yielding irrigated wheat (see: [www.grdc.com.au/growers/res\\_upd/hirain/04/stapper2.htm](http://www.grdc.com.au/growers/res_upd/hirain/04/stapper2.htm)). He is keen on the on-farm evaluation of biological agriculture to help quantify strengths and weaknesses and would like to collaborate with organic producers to benchmark and quantify their soil improvement practices. Maarten encouraged the field day participants to lobby their farmer groups to see more research undertaken in this area.

*For more information contact Robyn Neeson, Organic Farming Liaison Officer, NSW DPI.  
E-mail: [robyn.neeson@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robyn.neeson@agric.nsw.gov.au)*

## Preparation for the 15<sup>th</sup> IFOAM World Congress in Adelaide is well underway

Jan Denham reports that planning for the IFOAM World Congress is now well advanced. In this report Jan outlines the developments to date.



### **Congress Program and Call for Submissions**

The Call for Submissions resulted in 166 submissions to the Scientific Conference and 340 for the IFOAM and Viticulture Conferences – the Organizing Committee was overwhelmed and after many requests for extensions of the deadlines had to finally close the “Call” on the 15<sup>th</sup> January. The maximum number of papers able to be presented at the 3 concurrent conferences is 340 so both the IFOAM and ISOFAFAR Program Committees have had a challenging 6 weeks reviewing the papers and making decisions.

### **Keynote Speakers**

A wide range of keynote speakers covering many issues related to the theme of this Congress – “Shaping Sustainable Systems” are confirmed:

Gerry Glover	– The Land Institute, USA
Prof. Hardy Vogtmann	- Hon President of IFOAM, Germany
Sue Kedgley	- Greens MP and author, NZ
David Holmgren	- co-originator of Permaculture
Prof. Stuart Hill	- Chair of Social Ecology, Uni West Syd.
Adimaimalaga Tafuna’I	- Women in Business, Somoa
Dr Tim Flannery	- Museum Director, SA
Prof. Ulrich Koepke	- Organic Researcher, Germany
Pipo Lernoud	- organic retailer, Argentina

The Committee is still in discussion with more keynote speakers the outcome of which will not be known for a few weeks.

### **Sponsored Delegates**

A main project of the IFOAM Organic Conference/Congress is the raising of funds to sponsor delegates from developing countries and Eastern Europe. IFOAM raises funds and as the host nation we are raising funds as well. AusAID has been approached with submissions lodged for funding with the outcomes yet to be finalized.

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The Organizing Committee is responsible for raising funds for sponsoring delegates from the Asia/Pacific region. It has been agreed by the Committee at our last meeting that there will be a further campaign for donations from businesses and individuals over the next few months.

This is a great opportunity for organic organizations throughout Australia to become involved – this can be either by a donation to the Sponsorship Program or by agreeing to raise funds to sponsor a delegate – the estimated cost is around \$4,000.

Groups sponsoring delegates would select the delegate they would sponsor and have the option to have them in their community prior to the Congress.

If any groups are interested in donations or sponsoring a delegate E-mail Jan at [karra2@iinet.net.au](mailto:karra2@iinet.net.au) for more information.

## **Congress Environmental Impact**

With the theme for the Congress “Shaping Sustainable Systems” the Committee is working with the Office of Sustainability and the Adelaide Green City Project to make the Congress as “sustainable” as possible. One of the initiatives is to have delegates fund tree planting to compensate for the “carbon miles” created in getting to the Congress. As well delegates will be given guidelines on registration which will list how they can reduce their impact on the environment whilst in Adelaide for the Congress.

## **Publicity and Promotion**

To ensure that this event receives wide attention in both print and electronic media the Organizing Committee has contracted Doyle Media Services to manage the promotion of the event. Ian Doyle is well known in Adelaide and nationally having previously worked for the ABC. Ian will be ensuring that there are “stories” on a regular basis from now until the Congress. So over the coming months you can expect to receive regular news items on the Congress.

## **Website information.**

We apologize to those who have been looking at the website for updated information we have had some problems and these have now been rectified and there will be updated information this week. Website: <http://new.webtemplate.com.au/bridgehead/NASAA/>

## **Organic Fair and Festival.**

Planning is well advanced for this event with Gerry Butler heading up the Committee. Darren Humphrys contracted for one day a week to assist the committee. The Fair will be held in Adelaide Botanic Park and will be a weekend of entertainment, music, education, good food and fun.

*For more information on the 15<sup>th</sup> IFOAM World Congress contact: Jan Denham, Conference Co-ordinator. Phone: 03 5027 9249 E-mail: [karra2@iinet.net.au](mailto:karra2@iinet.net.au)*

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## Organic agriculture - a way out of poverty for small farmers, according to new research

Farmers in developing countries who switch to organic agriculture achieve higher earnings and a better standard of living, according to a series of studies conducted in China, India, and six Latin American countries by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The findings were presented during a workshop held on February 24 at the World Bank's headquarters in Washington, DC.

The research, partially financed by the Italian Government, concluded that organic food production could provide a way out of poverty for many small farmers in developing countries and recommended ways of integrating organic agriculture into development programs. Increased incomes are one key incentive for small farmers to start producing organic products. In Costa Rica, for example, organic cacao producers received 150 percent more for their product than conventional producers in 2001.

But better prices are not the only reason for changing production methods. According to the research conducted by IFAD, organic farming reduces the health risks posed by costly chemical pesticides and fertilizers, and benefits the environment with improved soil management.

Organic farming also offers more employment opportunities precisely because it is more labour intensive. In Karnataka, India, for example, the demand for female labour for crops such as tea and spices has increased by percent. In 2003, India's organic exports stood at US\$15.5 million and had about 2.5 million hectares under organic farming.

Creating more jobs in areas with high unemployment can increase revenues in rural areas and reduce migration. The value of Chinese exports grew from less than US\$1 million in the mid-1990s to about US\$142 million in 2003, with more than 1,000 companies and farms certified organic.

"Marginal and small farmers in China, India, Latin America and most probably in other developing countries, have a comparative advantage in shifting to organic agriculture, as the technologies they use are often very close to organic practices" said Paolo Silveri, Evaluation Officer, Office of Evaluation, IFAD. "Still, many will face a number of obstacles to becoming certified organic producers, including lack of technical knowledge, inadequate market information, limited storage and processing facilities and complex certification processes. This is where IFAD, the World Bank and other donors can step in to help." Shifting to organic production has been relatively easy for many small farmers in developing countries because they tend to already use few or no chemical inputs and frequently grow crops in areas where plants naturally mix with other species.

In poverty-stricken Hubei province (China), where 9 percent of the land is arable, small farmers have traditionally cultivated tea, mushroom, medicinal and aromatic plants. "Diversification and value addition of agricultural products are part of the poverty reduction agenda," said Ejia Pehu, Rural Development Adviser, World Bank. "Organic agriculture is one of the options to increase rural incomes, improve natural resource management and generate rural employment." However, she added, "studies show, it is important to provide access to technical and market information on organic production and strengthen producer organizations."

The presentation of the new research findings brought together representatives from the World Bank, US Agency for International Development (USAID), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), organic trade associations, certification agencies and business community. For more information on Agriculture and Rural Development, visit: [www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment](http://www.worldbank.org/sustainabledevelopment). *Source: World Bank press release, 24 February Washington.*

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## News, Publications, Commentaries and Events

### Publications

#### **Biointensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**

This excellent publication by NCAT Agriculture Specialist, Rex Dufour, is located on the ATTRA - National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service website. The article provides the rationale for biointensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM), outlines the concepts and tools of biointensive IPM, and suggests steps and provides informational resources for implementing IPM. It is targeted to individuals interested in agriculture at all levels.

The publication can be found at: <http://www.attra.org/attra-pub/ipm.html> or the pdf version at: <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/PDF/ipm.pdf>

#### **A Review of New Zealand and International Organic Land Management Research**

This research review report and catalogue were compiled by the Research and Development Group of the Biodynamic Farming and Gardening Association of New Zealand to provide scientists, policy makers, funding agencies and farmers with information on the current state of organic farming systems research and research methodology, focused around organic soil management. The report provides lists of research institutions and websites that specialize in organic systems research, as well as references to relevant books and research articles. Much of the material is drawn from overseas sources. Where relevant, findings from New Zealand research are provided. This serves to highlight some important points in relation to organic systems research:

- over the last decade a strong scientific basis has been developed, building on the work of the pioneers of organic agriculture in the early part of the 20th century;
- multi-disciplinary and whole-system research approaches that take account of regional, local and on-farm characteristics are required, over long time periods;
- New Zealand organic farmers have mainly relied on knowledge gained from their own experience and trials;
- involvement of organic producers is essential to ensure practical questions are addressed and to conduct credible organic systems research (particularly for participatory and observational approaches that are increasingly being used);
- there are significant opportunities for advancement of knowledge and collaborative research in New Zealand, based on overseas experience;
- increased knowledge of organic farming systems will not benefit the organic sector alone, but will also be of wider benefit to sustainable land management in New Zealand.

See the report at: [http://www.biodynamic.org.nz/researchreport\\_summary.html#\\_contents](http://www.biodynamic.org.nz/researchreport_summary.html#_contents)

#### **New NSW DPI Agnote compares fertilisers and their cost?**

Fertilisers available to organic farmers are often variable in their analysis and in crop response. The cost effectiveness of supplying specific nutrients in these products is not always clear.

Kempsey-based, NSW DPI extension agronomist, Carol Rose, recently published an Agnote called 'Fertiliser Calculations' which provides farmers with some simple calculations to work out how much nutrient to put on specific soil types. The Agnote provides formulas for calculating the cost per single nutrient, so that the cost of specific nutrients in various fertilisers can be compared, and the rates calculated.

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In addition, the Agnote also covers other aspects to consider when choosing a fertiliser such as response to fertiliser, availability, handling, timing and placement and side effects.

You can find this Agnote at: [www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/soil-fertilisers/fert-calcs-dpi496.pdf](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/reader/soil-fertilisers/fert-calcs-dpi496.pdf).

## **Book Review: Pasture Degradation and Recovery in Australia's Rangelands – Learning from History**

Edited by Greg McKeon, Wayne Hall, Beverly Henry, Grant Stone and Ian Watson, Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, May 2004 QNRME04130, ISBN 1 920920 55 2

Much has been written in previous editions of the Western Division Newsletter of the current drought and drought management strategies. Now a new book, published in May 2004, describes and analyses major drought and degradation periods that have occurred over the last one hundred years across Australia's rangelands. Historical degradation episodes in Australia are linked to global climate, economic forces and their interaction with rangeland grazing systems in the hope that rangelands will be better managed from learning about the mistakes and successes of the past. Eight degradation and recovery episodes in Australia's rangelands are discussed including the climate and grazing history, observations and analysis, recovery, and lessons to learn from the episode.

Based on research conducted across several State agencies and institutions, this book is a testament to the power of sharing scientific information and observations. Well referenced and well written, this book will prove valuable for anyone responsible for grazing land management in Australia's rangelands.

A summary of the book can be read at: [http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/AboutUs/Publications/ByType/Reports/LearningFromHistory/Summary/Summary\\_NinePages.pdf](http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/AboutUs/Publications/ByType/Reports/LearningFromHistory/Summary/Summary_NinePages.pdf) Also available on request from [rouseabout@nrm.qld.gov.au](mailto:rouseabout@nrm.qld.gov.au) or by contacting the Australian Greenhouse Office infoline on 1300 130 606.

*Review by Lee-Anne McInerney, Librarian, NSW PI, Yanco. From: Western Division Newsletter Number 104, January - February 2005.*

## **Weed Management in Organics**

Weed scientist W.S. Curran has prepared a 4-page fact sheet that succinctly summarizes Weed Management in Organic Cropping Systems. The 2004 publication notes the parallels with so-called conventional systems, but stresses that organic systems place much greater emphasis on cultural and mechanical weeding strategies. Effective weeding programs take into account site specific historical pest problems, soil management, crop rotations, needed or available equipment, timing, weather, markets, and of course costs and anticipated returns. Dr. Curran itemises a number of basic factors for weed management in organic production, lists several herbicides approved for organic culture, and emphasizes the importance of prevention. The document is Agronomy Facts 64 at <http://pubs.cas.psu.edu/freepubs/pdfs/uc187.pdf> or available as hardcopy from: Publications Distribution Ctr., 112 Agric. Admin. Bldg., PSU, University Park, PA 16802, USA.

## **New from RIRDC:**

### ***New Crop Industries Handbook now available on-line***

The 2nd edition of RIRDC's New Crop Industries Handbook is now available online. The New Crop Industries Handbook consolidates much of the recent research information into a handy format for those searching for the latest information on new crops. Each chapter can be viewed in Adobe PDF format. Chapters include Asian Vegetables, Essential Oils, Fruits and Berries, Grains and Legumes, Herbs and Spices, Miscellaneous Crops, Native Foods, Nuts and Wildflowers. See: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/NewCrops/Contents.html>

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## ***Developing free-range animal production systems***

In Australia, climatic extremes and environmental pollution concerns have limited the use of pigs and poultry in free-range systems. Nevertheless there is a growing consumer demand for greener and chemical free pork and free-range eggs. This report examines pigs and poultry which were housed in eco shelters and integrated into a pasture crop rotation system to establish if free-range pig and poultry operations associated with organic grain production could be used on a niche scale in the wheat belt of Australia. See: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/Ras/04-058.pdf>

## ***Green Marketing and EMS***

This project investigated the level of consumer demand for food produced according to codes of practice ensuring sustainable use of natural resources. The rationale for the project was to better harness the power of consumers and commercial food markets to deliver improved environmental outcomes via EMS's in food production and in food processing and marketing. See: <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/reports/EFM/04-175.pdf>

## **Environmental Management Guidelines in Horticulture**

An 85 page guide created to help producers link production targets to sound environmental management practices has been developed by *Horticulture for Tomorrow*, a project funded by the National Heritage Trust and managed by Horticulture Australia and involving industry stakeholders. See: <http://www.horticulturefortomorrow.com.au/documents/GuidelinesFINAL.pdf>

## **State of Australia's Birds 2004**

The State of Australia's Birds reports present an overview of the status of Australia's birds, the major threats they face and the conservation actions taken. This second report focuses on wetland birds. See: <http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/publications/birds-04/index.html>

## **Searching On-line for Australian Research**

Australian Agriculture and Natural Resources On-Line (AANRO) is an integrated knowledge discovery tool for agriculture and natural resources. Funded by Australian Commonwealth and State Governments, AANRO integrates a number data bases into a single knowledge base on agriculture and natural resources without any information loss. The new knowledge base has been re-engineered to provide links to electronic full text, related web sites and other useful information including links to document delivery services. The AANRO knowledge base contains close to 180,000 detailed descriptions of research projects and documents about Australian agriculture and natural resources. About 1,500 new research projects and 5,000 documents are added to the knowledge base each year. To search for research information on organic farming, go to: <http://www.aanro.net/page/basicsearch.htm> and type in 'organic farming'.

## **News and Events**

### **Austrade helping firms win business in the US following Free Trade Agreement**

Austrade has announced its commercial strategy to assist Australian businesses take advantage of export opportunities arising from the Australia-United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) that came into force on 1 January 2005. Austrade offers practical advice, market intelligence and ongoing support (including financial) to Australian businesses looking at entering the US market. Businesses may qualify for assistance through Austrade's New Exporter Development (NED) program and for funding through the Export Market Development Grants (EMDG) scheme. For more information go to: [http://www.austrade.gov.au/australia/layout/0,,0\\_S2-1\\_CLNTXID002-2\\_-3\\_-4\\_-5\\_-6\\_-7\\_,00.html](http://www.austrade.gov.au/australia/layout/0,,0_S2-1_CLNTXID002-2_-3_-4_-5_-6_-7_,00.html) or phone 13 28 78.

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## **First Tropical North Queensland Organics Conference: “Organics – a path to best management “**

Papers are being called for submissions for the First Tropical North Queensland Organics Conference “*Organics – a path to best management* “, 15 – 16 June 2005 at the Sheridan Plaza Cairns.

The Organic Producers Association of Far North Queensland Incorporated (OPAFNQ) is presenting the first Tropical North Queensland Organics Conference and Tropical North Queensland Organic Produce and Product Expo, Wednesday 15 June 2005 followed by a one day Soil symposium with Dr Elaine Ingham, Thursday 16 June 2005.

The conference committee is interested in receiving technical papers from researchers, agronomists and scientists and non-technical presentations from growers, retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, certifiers, extension providers, consultants, consumers, health workers and all others involved in the organic industry.

Papers are invited for oral and other presentations in the following areas:

Soil Nutrition, Erosion, and Restoration

Pest, Disease and Weed Control

Holistic Management Systems

Farm Biodiversity

Harvest and Post Harvest systems

Agripolitics

Marketing and Trade

Certification

Commodity Sectors

Retail

Consumers

Health

Science research

Social Research

Economics

Ethics

Sustainability

Technology

For further information contact: The conference coordinator, email: [opafnq@austarnet.com.au](mailto:opafnq@austarnet.com.au) Phone: 07 4067 6492 (1-3pm weekdays)

## **Fernleigh Farms Open Day**

You're invited to Fernleigh Farms Open Day on Sunday 20 March 10:00am - 4:30pm. The event will celebrate the launch of the Farm Shop.

The Open Day is part of the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival program and is also an official Slow Food event. Taste food by Chef George Biron using 'Real Taste' traditional meats and local and organic produce. All proceeds of food go to Rare Breeds Trust of Australia. Enjoy local organic wines, farm tours and forest walks. Visit the endangered farm livestock display. Entertainment is available all day, with guest speakers and music by The Tyquins, The Shy and Bret Kelly. Entrance fee for the event is only \$5 per adult or \$18 per family. *Location and Contact: Fernleigh Farms, 1070 Trentham Road, Bullarto (12km east of Daylesford) Melway Map 509, D10. Phone: 03 5348 5566. Email: [organic@fernleighfarms.com](mailto:organic@fernleighfarms.com) Website: [www.fernleighfarms.com](http://www.fernleighfarms.com)*

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## **Permaculture Symposium and 8th Australian Permaculture Convergence**

As part of the 8th Australian Permaculture Convergence (APC8), Permaculture Melbourne Inc. invites you to: Permaculture: Creating Pathways to Sustainability a 1-day symposium – Monday April 11 2005. The symposium will explore the value of permaculture design strategies in sustainable land use planning and environmental education, community development and overseas aid projects. Speakers include Professor Stuart Hill University of Western Sydney and Morag Gamble SEED International, Queensland.

The APC8 week of events includes:

### **Public Lecture by David Holmgren (co-originator of permaculture):**

**GLOBAL ENERGY PEAK: THREAT OR OPPORTUNITY**

Friday 8 April 2005, Cardinal Knox Lecture Theatre, 383 Albert Street, East Melbourne. 8pm. Gold coin donation. Melway ref: 2GA1

### **Conference: Permaculture People tell their Stories**

Sunday April 10

### **Expo: Discovering Permaculture**

(Family Day) Sunday April 10

### **Symposium: Permaculture: Creating Pathways to Sustainability**

Monday April 11

### **Permaculture Site Visits**

Thursday April 14 – Friday April 15

### **Post-Event Short Courses**

Saturday April 16

*For more information about these events and to register please visit <http://www.apc8.org.au> by 24 March, 2005. Late applications will only be accepted if places are available. Also phone Sarah: 0437 140 022 Email: [apc8@tpg.com.au](mailto:apc8@tpg.com.au) Web: <http://www.apc8.org.au>*

## **4th International Conference on Organic Textiles - Intercot**

“Global Approaches to Organic Textiles”

May 1 - 3, 2005 in Chicago, Illinois USA

[dgagnon@ota.com](mailto:dgagnon@ota.com)

<http://www.intercot.org/2005/portal/loader.php>

## **BioFach America**

September 16-18, 2005

Organic Products Expo

Washington, D.C., USA

[f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com](mailto:f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com)

<http://www.nuernbergglobalfairs.com/>

## **15th IFOAM Organic World Congress**

September 20-23, 2005

Adelaide, Australia

[ifoam2005@nasaa.com.au](mailto:ifoam2005@nasaa.com.au)

<http://www.nasaa.com.au/ifoam/>

## **IFOAM General Assembly**

September 25-27, 2005

Adelaide, Australia

For more information, contact:

[headoffice@ifoam.org](mailto:headoffice@ifoam.org)

# Organic News.

## **BioFach Japan**

International Organic Trade Fair

September 21-23, 2005

Tokyo, Japan

[f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com](mailto:f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com)

## **BioFach America Latina**

November 16-18, 2005

International Organic Trade Fair and Conference

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

[f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com](mailto:f.venjakob@nuernbergglobalfairs.com)

<http://www.nuernbergglobalfairs.com/>

## **Do you have any Organic News?**

Do you have any research results, field day reports or other information that may be of relevance to organic agriculture? If so, let us hear about it! Send your contributions to:

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Email: [robyn.neeson@agric.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robyn.neeson@agric.nsw.gov.au)

Note: Electronic format is preferred. Text - Times New Roman 11 point.

## **DISCLAIMERS**

*The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries or the user's independent adviser.*

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