

Newsletter

Well hello.

It's been a long while since the last newsletter – over 12 months in fact. Lot's has happened in that time worthy of news.

This time last year I departed Natrakelp as I could see we were heading in different directions. Underpinning all my work of the previous 8 years was the need to promote truly sustainable agriculture for the initial economic benefit of the farmer and the long term return to the environment. Ultimately this could lead to organic farming if the farmer so desired. A number of farmers have taken up this challenge and many more are seriously considering it as an option. Would like to hear from you if it could be an option for you as there are now a number of organically certified farmers who are prepared to share their successes and failures with you.

During the last year AgriSolutions has made arrangements to access a variety of seaweed, kelp and fish products from severak suppliers to support the move to more sustainable farming. This enables the farmer a greater selection of products based on performance, price and availability that will contribute to the reduction of inputs and associated costs, over time, for the farmer.

More importantly I have taken a very active role in supporting the establishment of organic grower groups. These groups are farmer based and rely on currently successful sustainable and organic farmers mentoring those wanting to go down that path. These self help groups also include processors and consumers so the farmer can develop with the knowledge that his produce is provided with an avenue to the consumer.

Outline funding, support, future, pricing & worth of proiduce

Soil testing, nutrient baalnce

Org 2020, eating intop the future, natural & org food conference, egoaa, price makers – not price takers (based on the environmental cost of food)

welcome to the 1st edition of agrinews – the newsletter frm agrisol pty ltd – dedicated to seeking and sharing natural answers for and with farmers

Agrisol commenced trading some 2 years ago to support farmers' attempts to reduce costs and improve performance on their farms. In this light Agrisol believes that farmers need to source local farm inputs and to use all resources on hand to grow the farm with least long term costs. Agrisol is championing the cause of organic farming because of the demand for organic produce and because organic farming principles assist not only with the economic position of the farmer but also the social and environmental concerns. It is not just coincidence that the organic certifying bodies recognise in their standards the process of organic growing encompasses wider social,

environmental and economic factors. The principles stem from the knowledge that the only truly sustainable farming is premised on holistic methods. All inputs need to be judiciously scrutinised for their impact on the farm and beyond. The true worth of the food or fibre produced from the farm needs to be calculated on the potentially cumulative damage that produce may have on the environment, the community impact and the reasonable return to the farming business. Global market trends see food and fibre as a commodity to be traded on the open market where price is determined by supply and demand and the ability to pay. Fundamentally basic food and fibre should be a right to all people and everyone should contribute to the environmental degradation costs in the form of levies on food production.

Just when you thought it was safe to go to the letter box, here comes this newsletter! You could be forgiven for thinking that I had slipped off the corner of the world – it is a while since I have declared my presence and intentions.

Having formed AgriSolutions over 2 years ago with the intention of assisting clever farmers find more natural answers to a range of their farming problems, AgriSolutions has extended its interest into organic agriculture. Since departing from Natrakelp in July 1999, I have become involved in the burgeoning organic industry because of the potential it offers farmers and their local community and environment.