

Bart Davidson

First time in Queensland

Agricultural specialist, Bart Davidson will be running the very first cutting edge soil and plant nutrition workshops for Queensland in late May and early June in Toowoomba and Emerald.

The workshops are a first for southern and central Queensland and will be co-presented by grazing specialist, Mick Alexander of Grazing BestPrac, Yeppoon.

Mr Davidson, Bio-nutrient Solutions, Moree has been working with a large number of highly successful broadacre farmers in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales regions in past years. He is bringing the exciting new science to the grazing and cropping industries in Queensland. In the first pilot workshop, arranged by CHRRUP at Emerald, Mr Davidson was swamped by questions about balancing soils and managing difficult soils.

For the first time in Queensland, crops and pastures are being considered the same as the agronomic science of growing pastures and cereals is similar. Crops and pastures growing on the same soils, will have the same issues based around nutrient balance and microbial activity. Now more than ever before, farmers and graziers are looking to fertilizers, biological treatments and alternative management programs to improve crop and pasture yields. Farmers manage the crops for increased yields and protein. Pastures are similar in that they must produce protein to produce weight gains.

In the past decade, we have seen dramatic changes in the way we manage cropping lands, converting to minimum and zero-till, reduced fertilizers and organic inputs. And in the grazing scene, a small number of producers are now utilizing forms of rotational grazing and receiving production benefits. However, with the assistance and guidance of local graziers and specialists, we will begin to develop "Best Practice" models for the grazing industry. Mr Davidson explained, this best practice must begin with the soil in terms of nutrient balance and microbial balance. Mr Davidson explained the need to balance the soils by not just looking at which nutrient is lacking, but more to know which nutrients are causing an imbalance. He explained that the three key nutrients (calcium, sulphur and phosphorous) if deficient will reduce protein production in pasture and therefore weight gain. These nutrients are required for optimal plant production. A plant can look lush and green and have no ability to increase animal weight.



The Soil and Plant Nutrition workshop will show you how to:

- Read and interpret soil tests
- Understand the interactions between soil and plants, biology and nutrients
- Implement a best practice monitoring program for soil, crop & pastures
- Increase the efficiency of your fertiliser program and practices
- Identify the three phases of plant growth in grains that make the money and how to maximise them
- Improve the biological health of your soils

Workshop organizer, Mick Alexander, said, he believed the knowledge of soils which will be presented during the program was not widely known across the industry, as many agronomists simply did not understand the depth of science. He explained the need to better understand the implications of major nutrients being out of balance and the impact we have on simply topping up one nutrient in isolation. The issues in our industry are real as there is a general trend of reduced pasture yields, reduced weight gains and growth rates and reduced profits. For more information, call Mick or Noela 49 383919/ 0438 395255. The next workshops will be held at Toowoomba 31st May and 1st June and Emerald, 3rd and 4th June. Photo – Bart Davidson showing the Seca Stylo plant and explaining the need for legumes to have adequate nitrogenase bacteria to fix nitrogen and also Phosphorous, Sulphur and Calcium for protein development.



Healthy Crops, Cattle & Soils Program

'Make the most of your rain & grass in 2010'

SOIL AND PLANT NUTRITION WORKSHOP

Cutting edge 2 day soil & plant management workshop for the 21st Century

WHO - Bart Davidson (Bio-Nutrient Solutions, Moree)

WHERE TOOWOOMBA - 31ST MAY/ 1ST JUNE

WHERE EMERALD - 3RD AND 4TH JUNE

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For more information Contact: - Grazing BestPrac

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