

Best Practice for Grazing.

with Mick Alexander



IPM and back-rubbers minimise dung beetle deaths

The message coming through loud and clear in the past few weeks is that the buffalo fly has already become established this season and will continue until dung beetle populations build further. Dung beetle specialist, Mick Alexander (Grazing BestPrac) said the only way of sustainably managing the buffalo fly populations is to reduce its breeding ground and that means burying or shredding as much cow dung as possible as quickly as possible.

Mr Alexander said the way to do this is to build the populations of dung beetles to a sustainable level. That is we need to minimise the potential for killing beetles, by not drenching livestock as often as we would like. If it is possible to wait until the populations of dung beetles have a chance to build up to a level where they can control the fly problem. Research carried out by CSIRO during the dung beetle release period in the 1980's demonstrated direct impact dung beetles

had on the fly population (figure 1). Research has also shown that most drenches which are excreted in the livestock dung are harmful to some degree to dung beetles. He continued, we need to implement an integrated pest management (IPM) plan to utilise as many natural strategies as possible.

Some of the most appropriate strategies to use during the dung beetle build up period would be:

- Back-rubber (organic or non residual)
- Overall spray (organic or non residual)
- Buffalo fly trap

Some of the buffalo fly control products

which have been developed today include back rubber oils and sprays which have a nil with-holding period (non residual) and organic. These products are excellent for those families who want to build dung beetle populations and those that cattle operations that require organic status.

Tom Bimrose of Bimrose Lubricants, Rockhampton supplies a backrubber oil which has a nil with-holding period and can be used in most conditions. This oil has been used by dozens of producers in the central Queensland region with excellent results. Mr Bimrose

said his clients are already seeing good results this season and would recommend this product. He added, we have good stocks of the oil and would be willing to conduct trials on some properties.

All producers need to get clear on how they

plan to manage parasite numbers on livestock in a good season like this, he said. Most people I have spoken to in the past few weeks have made conscious decisions to use less chemical and if possible go to more environmentally friendly methods.

More information is available on the Australian dung beetle website— www.dungbeetle.com.au or for more information phone 0749 383919 or go to www.grazingbestprac.com.au or go to Bimrose Lubricants on www.bimlube.com.au/

BEST PRACTICE GROUPS take off in CQ

An exciting new Best Practice program has just launched in central Queensland to assist primary producers tackle the soil and plant nutrition problems they have been facing in the past few years. The first farm group meeting was held last week at Allen Bowen's farm "Maloa", Biloela with twenty producers from around the central Queensland region, attending. Meeting organiser, Shane Krafft from "Grazing BestPrac" said the meeting was a follow-up from the "Soil and Plant Nutrition" workshops held in Biloela, Emerald and Rockhampton earlier in the year and will be followed up again in the next 6 weeks.

Mr Krafft said, Participants travelled from Monto, Springsure, Gogango and Biloela to attend the one day on farm followup, being run as a joint venture between Grazing BestPrac and Bio-Nutrient Solutions. He continued, our aim is to assist members to get a handle on their crop and pasture growth problems, so that they really can make the most of this brilliant season we are having.

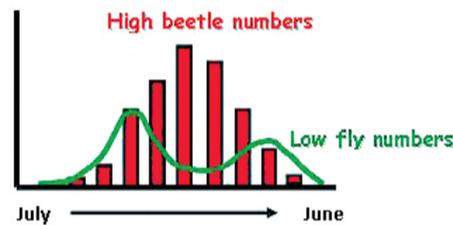
The day was presented by soil and plant specialist, Bart Davidson, Moree who explained the need to benchmark soils and plant saps to enable sound management decisions. Mr Davidson said, the industry has changed a lot in the past few years due to drier conditions, cost of inputs and the rundown of our soils. Plants have to expend more energy to achieve the same growth or production that they had to a decade ago, he said. Mr Davidson said, many of our management practices burns up carbon and uses calcium as well as

other nutrients. Many of our practices cause nutrients to be tied up or not available for plant uptake. We are now in a different place to a decade or two ago and so our soils require a different management program to be viable. In many situations, yield can be increased by managing calcium and micro-nutrients at a lower cost than the standard NPK solution, he said.

Organiser, Mr Krafft explained the day was a combination of the latest cutting edge science of growing crops and pastures and the paddock inspection to see the latest equipment and technology being used. Our real aim is to help producers solve their own individual problems of nutrient run down, plant health and soil health, by teaching the background science and adapting management practices. He continued, the science being used to determine plant requirements today may not be giving the best information to grow crops and pastures today. The group model is very flexible and able to be adapted to grazing, broadacre crops or horticulture as the basis for management is the soil first.

Group members were very excited about the first on-farm meeting where they looked at the setting up of liquid injection on two planting rigs as well as various ways of improving microbial breakdown of trash, improving nutrient cycling and lucerne management.

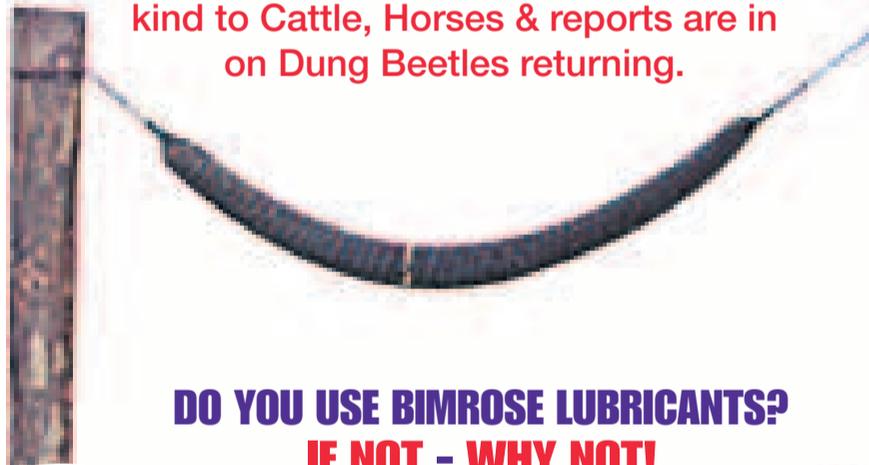
For more information on the Best Practice Groups program, phone 0749 383919 or Shane on 0409 189256 or visit the websites www.grazingbestprac.com.au or www.best-practicegroups.com



Your Answer to Buffalo Fly!

Bimrose Backrubber Oil

kind to Cattle, Horses & reports are in on Dung Beetles returning.



**DO YOU USE BIMROSE LUBRICANTS?
IF NOT - WHY NOT!**

3' 6' 9'
From \$90⁰⁰



4921 3800 * John 0437 725 042 * 486 Quay St, Depot Hill, R'ton * oil@bimlube.com.au

Healthy Grass, Cattle & Soils Workshops

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

TECHNOLOGY OF GROWING GRASS

Come and learn about:

- Regenerative grazing management
- Carbon & carbon sequestration
- Managing soil microbes • The value of grass
- Compost Teas & Biological Brews
- Property planning for profit

Fully subsidized cost by Farm Ready (FRTC 0115)

Emerald – 2nd & 3rd December
Moura – 7th & 8th December
Goondiwindi – 15th & 16th December

Office/Noela 07 4938 3919 - Mick 0438 395 255



Alan Bowen Maloa Biloela Fred and Ben Jarvis Monto



Russell and Matthew Morretti Janelle Whatley Regal Seeds and Cambell Hill Farm stuff Biloela



Bart Davidson Bio Nutrient Solutions and Doug Barnard Banana



Tony Bongers and Tony Davidson of Biloela



David O'Connor Springsure and Rob Fry selected Seeds Rockhampton



Trevor Jones garnant and eustie King Gogango.