

Invitation



The Points



Network SW
Consulting

In partnership with SWTAFE



Soil Stamina

Sustainable, productive and profitable soils

Soils are the backbone to sustainable agriculture.

Soils with good structure, organic matter and nutrients available to the plants provide the best pasture & greater profits.

*Have you had a good look at your soils lately?
Get down and get dirty!*

Healthy soil is the backbone of sustainable, productive and profitable farming.

Developing effective, efficient, long-term techniques to improve soil health is essential for your farming system.

Improvement in soil structure, soil pH, organic content and nutrient performance is possible through changed management practices and leads to better production and financial returns.

The purpose of the day is to understand what makes a soil healthy and provide on farm options and alternatives for consideration for grazing systems.

The content of the day will involve the following;

- Basic introduction to soils and soil health - physical, chemical, biological,
- What is soil acidity and how does it affect nutrient availability?
- The importance of organic matter & how to improve it,
- Soil testing & understanding the results!
- On farm soil health monitoring.

Can you afford to miss this?

DATE: Tuesday 24th March 2009
TIME: 9.30am to 3.30pm (lunch included)
PLACE: Hospital Function Room
Coleraine Hospital, McKeberly St.
Followed by farm site visit
COST: \$10 only (includes lunch)
- pay on entry

Places are limited so reply ASAP

Please RSVP for catering

by Thurs 19th March to;

Ian Fry

Ph: 5573 4539

Mob: 0429 700911

Email: ian.fry@networksw.com.au

*Go into the
draw to WIN a
soil pH meter*

Ted Mikhail

Edward Hanna (Ted) Mikhail MSc, BSc Agric., Dip Land Recl. & Improv., Dip Agric Ext. MAIAST MRACI DG, began his career as an Agronomist in Egypt in 1959, working first in animal husbandry and then in soil improvement.



In 1967, Ted came to Australia and began research on improved irrigation methods with the Victoria State Rivers & Water Supply Commission.

In 1980 he established SWEP Analytical Laboratories in order to better serve the agricultural community by applying his principles in soil, plant, animals and human relationships to achieve the highest quality in life through our soil. He was then also able to extend his research to soils from around the World. In 1986, this all came together into what we now call "The Mikhail System".

Since the very beginning, Ted has held strongly to the view that soil is a "Living System" and, as such, healthy soil should have an optimal balance of factors pertaining to each of its three main components - physical structure, plant nutrients and soil biology.

Peter Ham

Peter Ham is a Field Consultant working for LawrieCo Biological Farming. His work focuses on creating chemical, physical and biologically balanced soils, delivering sustainable, profitable farming systems.



He is based in Hamilton, working through the Western Districts, Wimmera and Central Victorian regions.

Peter completed a Bachelor of Agricultural Science with Honors at La Trobe University. He had a major focus on soil science and in particular the relationship between soil acidity and plant performance.

Peter became interested in soil health, realising the strong connection between soil, plant and animal health. 'Healthy soils deliver healthy balanced plants which in turn produce healthy livestock for meat, milk and fibre production'.



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