



The BIGG Bulletin

June 2014

Subsoil Modification at Koonunga

Koonunga Ag Bureau through its *Koonunga Sustainability and Biodiversity* project has recently established three trials and four demonstrations of subsoil modification. The work is based on Victorian research, where it has been demonstrated that subsoils which inhibit root growth can be improved by the addition of organic materials, whilst stimulating microbiological activity to modify their structure. This in-turn improves soil pore size, water infiltration and drainage, and reduced the effects of temporary waterlogging, soil sodicity and the nature of heavy textured subsoils.

The local project sites are in crop, pasture and vineyards, in the



Subsoiler machine on loan from the Victorian Department of Environment and Primary Industry (DEPI) and Southern Farming Systems Victoria, placing organic material into subsoil layers at Koonunga.

Moppa, Koonunga and Ebenezer districts. A range of soil types have been targeted for the project with project operator David Woodard of Rural Solutions SA

placing up 40t/ha of various treatments (plant based compost, animal and plant based compost, pelletised chicken manure, gypsum and a mixture of compost, gypsum and manure pellets) to a depth of 40cm. The effect of these organic materials may take a few years to be fully realised as it requires the resulting improved plant and root growth to explore the modified layers. If successful the technique may have medium to long term production increases.

The *Koonunga Sustainability and Biodiversity* project is funded by Caring for our Country, Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board and the Dept. of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

A Date with Grazer, Dick Richardson

Renowned grazier Dick Richardson will be giving a series of talks across South Australia, including at Angaston, on July 31. Dick's visit is being hosted by the Natural Resource SA Murray-Darling Basin and the consultancy company, ProAdvice.

Dick ran a successful grazing operation in South Africa and has over 20 years experience facilitating,

training and consulting to farm businesses around the world on sustainable grazing management. He has developed a low-cost, ecological approach to his grazing business which he will share at the workshop.

If you are looking for new ways to increase grass production come along and pick up some vital tips to add to your grazing management 'toolbox'.

- July 29, 9am-5pm Jim & Wendy Natt (Langhorne Creek)
- July 30, 9am-5pm Rory Fitzpatrick (Meadows/Kuitpo)
- July 31, 9am-5pm Michael & Jane Evans (Angaston)

RSVP to Chris Scheid by July 18 on 0427 186 133 or cscheid@proadvice.com.au

Angaston Ag Bureau on the way to Lambex

Angaston Ag Bureau is again supporting a major industry initiative by providing travel bursaries for a delegation of 12 members, members family and young local agricultural professionals to the Lambex conference at the Adelaide Showgrounds on July 9-11.

Mark Grossman, Chair of the Ag Bureau of South Australia and a local producer, said "it's been great that SA was able to attract Lambex via its strong collaboration across the industry sectors". Locally, the new initiatives for Lambex 2014 has stimulated a strong engagement by members of the local Bureaux and community. In particular, BIGG, which is run under the auspice of the Angaston Ag Bureau, has developed strong linkages with the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges NRM Board.

The Board will be hosting two bus tours on July 9 which will be visiting some of the Bureau members' properties around the Barossa region who will demonstrate sustainable agricultural NRM achievements and outcomes from various BIGG projects.



Angaston Ag Bureau delegation heading to Lambex 2014.

Back: Mark Grossman, Neil Neumann, Michael and Richard Evans

Middle: Stefan Grossman, Sam Neumann, Ian Koch,

Front: Bruce Hancock, Nicolas Noel (international work experience student from France) and Lachlan Grossman.

BIGG will also have its "RAPPA" e-fence equipment on display in the NRM Boards Exhibit at Lambex demonstrating its strong engagement with the local NRM Board to drive regional NRM outcomes.

Also, the Ag Bureau/BIGG/Nuriootpa High School has two finalists, Georgie Keynes and Lachlan Grossman selected in the Lambex-

Australian White Suffolk Young Guns competition.

Mark concluded, "we also look forward to the success of some local "Barossa and regional" branded lamb in the new Australian National Lamb Competition, there is nothing better than some good local lamb with a bold Barossa red!

From the INBOX

Farmer Johns - Broadacre Technical Update

July 4, 9:30am-12:15pm at Peter Lehmann Wines, Tanunda. Includes speakers on soil moisture monitoring. RSVP to Farmer Johns on 8562 1311.

Composting on Dairy Farms

Check-out DairySA's new composting factsheets: [Composting on dairy farms: is it for my farm?](#) and [Making compost on dairy farms](#)

SA Beef School - Focus on Females

A practical learning experience on cattle breeding and management. August 12-13 at Mount Compass Area School Training Centre. Registration: Penny Schulz on 0417 853 094 or penny@schulzlivestock.com.au

Further Information

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