

Sustainable farming – mainstream reality

Sustainable farming is no longer a backyard dream: it is a mainstream reality. Environmental concerns and legislative changes are increasingly pushing landholders towards sustainable farming systems, and one Australian company is determined to be part of it

"We are available to provide on-farm services to look at implementing systems that help growers address important industry issues," says Paul Baguley, of PG Ag Consulting.

"Some of these issues simply make good economic sense – others are compulsory due to the legislative changes.

"We put together implementation systems which will allow growers to achieve the targets being set by changing environmental laws.

"These cover things like water issues, residue issues, resistance management, farm storage, even record keeping.

"The challenge we now face is to maintain our current high production levels, while at the same time reverse the decline in soil structure and fertility, and improve crop quality and

Resistance to attack by insect and disease", said Paul.

"The key benefits of organic-based fertilisers are that they contain a readily available nutrient supply: they result in better nutrient utilisation; they stimulate soil micro-organisms; they reduce nutrient losses into the environment; they buffer the acidifying effect due to compost; they increase Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) of soils, and they contain naturally chelated trace elements within humus."

Paul believes that to grow sufficient crops to feed and increasing world population there will always be chemical usage. But he also believes that total chemical usage could be reduced by following sustainable farming systems and this is why products such as Guano Gold are prov-

ing so popular with Australian Farmers. "We are that there is a great need for change in our farming systems and that we need to be part of that change," he said.

Paul believes that growers need help to meet their ever changing obligations but are sometimes reluctant to spend money on consultative services.

"This isn't going to happen overnight," he said. "It is a slow process but it will happen. And in the long term, it will happen. And in the long term, it will save the grower money. "It is not always easy for conventional farmers to switch to sustainable farming systems. "There is legal and moral pressure for them to do so, but nobody was offering them any help."

Guano Australia and GoMark now believe that they have the solution to offer that help, and carry it through...

Long term sustainability with Guano Gold

Guano Gold 100% Phosphorus fertiliser has been trialed, tested and recommended by PBAg Consulting Pty Ltd in both the viticulture and pasture industries.

Focusing predominately on the above mentioned industries and on NSW, Guano Gold has proved itself in many varied situations. "I like the flexibility the product offers in providing immediate phosphorus to get the pasture and vines off to a good start," said Paul, "followed by the additional benefit of a slow release function which makes the remaining phosphorus available to plants when required.

"An added benefit is the make-up of the product which adds organic matter to the soil when applied, which is required to improve the overall CEC level of the soil.

"As a secondary benefit Guano Gold provided a high percentage of calcium and a nutrient that is becoming more and more important in horticulture industries known as silica.

"Calcium is crucial for cell structure, skin thickness and improves the overall strength of the cell wall while silica also has a direct relationship with cell structure and strength.

"My observations, where Guano Gold has been used in viticulture, showed that the berry skins were thicker and

stronger and less prone to splitting in wet weather, which has a direct affect on the amount of moulds and rots which develop.

Guano Gold suits all soil types and works well in heavy clay acid soils and I have found no problems with the phosphorus component of Guano Gold being tied up and unavailable to the plant in any soil type. "Guano Gold is 100 per cent organic and has a national registration with BFA and now with GO Mark.

"In saying this, PB Ag Consulting recommends Guano Gold in both organic and conventional farming programs and the results have always been improved productivity.

"Guano Gold is an affordable phosphorus option when compared to traditional main stream products and the advantages outweigh the marginal cost difference."

Director of PB Ag Consultancy Pty Ltd, Mr Paul Baguley supports and recommends Guano Gold to many agricultural enterprises' and is impressed with the performance of the product in all circumstances.

Mr. Baguley sees the need for such a product and will continue to recommend the product as it clearly has a fit in mainstream agriculture and the long term sustainability and profitability of Australian agribusiness.



Paul Baguley

PB Ag Consulting

Paul Baguley brings to you 14 years experience in the rural industry covering a broad range of enterprises (Livestock, grain trading, broadacre agronomy, pasture agronomy, viticulture and much more.

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