



# Biological Farming I



*This project is supported by SoilCare Inc and  
North Coast Institute - TAFE Wollongbar*

**When: 9.00 AM to 4.00 PM every second Monday starting 20 February 2012**

**Duration: 9 sessions over 18 weeks**

**Where: TBA**

**Teacher: Alan Coates**

Class members will evaluate soil health and management practices on their respective farms. Class members will develop a management plan for their farms using biological farming principles and the Soil Best Management Practice Guides.

## Course Outline

Proposed Date	Topic
20/2/12	Course structure, Biological farming principles, Soil balance Soil profiles, Composting
5/3/12	Soil physical properties, Texture, Structure, Soil water Construct compost heap
19/3/12	Soil carbon/Organic matter, Soil biology, Soil foodwebs, Biodiversity, Soil Health Cards, Check compost
2/4/12	Soil nutrition, pH, Soil testing, Plant nutrition, Plant physiology and nutrient uptake, Nutrient balance, Check compost
23/4/12	Interpreting soil test results, Developing nutrition programs, Sources of nutrients
7/5/12	Groundcovers/covercrops, Biological pasture management systems, Check compost
21/5/12	Biological cropping systems, Ecosystem management, Develop soil management plan
4/6/12	Soil degradation & management, Pest, disease & weed management
18/6/12	Soil management plans, Revision, Check compost

Field excursions and practical sessions will be a component of all classes. Farmers who complete the course and submit the course assessment (a soil/farm management plan for their farm) will be reimbursed the \$225.00 TAFE course fee.

Questions to: [info@soilcare.org](mailto:info@soilcare.org) or phone Bonnie Walker 6628 1788 or 0448 026 230

Or contact Phil Harvey, TAFE Wollongbar [philip.harvey6@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:philip.harvey6@det.nsw.edu.au)

Good reading:

***The Biological Farmer*** or ***The Advanced Biological Farmer*** - by Gary Zimmer

The book can be ordered from ACRES USA <http://www.acresusa.com/books/books.asp?pcid=2>