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Organic Focus Farm

Organic Discussion Group

29th November 2011—John Vosper, Matamata

Big thanks to John and Michael for hosting our last group day. We had a range of talks about soil and fertiliser. A big thanks to all those that contributed, and for ODPG for bringing in Dr Dave Horne.

A summary of comments is shown below.

See details overleaf for our next field day in February.

*Thanks to
our Sponsor*



Main Points on Soils and Fertiliser

ARGOS (<http://www.argos.org.nz/>)

- Surprisingly close between conventional and organic
- Huge overlap within groups
- What did sheep and beef look like?
- Wanted more on worm count information
- Updated statistics will be on ODPG website
- Total P v's available P was discussed
- Questioned the impact on management - did this affect things more?

Fertiliser Trial

- Visually no difference. To date soil testing done but more to be done such as Brix, herbage, composition, with focus on same time of year and day.
- Interest in the results from the group
- Plan to keep the trial going.
- Trial available for other parties to look at.

Farm

- Discussion around round lengths—35—45 days. Depends on:
 - Grass ahead
 - Supplements available
 - Soil type
 - Weather conditions
 - Stock health and condition
 - Option for culling

Overseer and Nutrient Management Plans

- Lots to think about
- Necessity for compliance
- Be proactive rather than reactive—monitor
- Be responsible—obligation

Next Meeting

When: Tuesday 28th February 2012

Time: 10.30 am—2.30 pm

Where: Yvonne and James Killalea
943 Tahuna Road,
Ohinewai

Theme: “When the Shit Hits the Fan”

Agenda

10.20 am—10.40 am	Welcome and Cuppa
10.40 am—11.05 am	Session 1
11.05 am —11.25 am	Feedback Session 1
11.25 am —11.50 am	Session 2
11.50am –12.15 am	Feedback Session 2
12.15 am—12.45pm	LUNCH
	BBQ lunch provided by ODPG
12.45 pm—1.10 pm	Session 3
1.10 pm—1.30 pm	Feedback Session 3
1.30 pm—1.55 pm	Session 4
1.55 pm—2.15 pm	Feedback Session 4
2.15 pm — 2.30 pm	Feedback on Day
2.30 pm	Next meeting

*BBQ Lunch sponsored
by ODPG*

Directions

Two roundabouts at Taupiri, head out on Orini Road on second roundabout. Left into Rutherford, left into Tahuna. 943 Tahuna Road first on right, tanker number 72054. Left to cowshed—go to round barn.

NOTE: NO SMOKING INSIDE SHED
PLEASE

