Trends in Regenerative Farming

• Nuffield Contemporary Scholars Conference

16 March / Tim O’Grady
Partnering with Innovation (PWI)

• Linking leading growers
• Focus on building soil health
• Challenges for large farms
• Not ‘one size fits all’

Holistic approach to soil health
Cover Crops

• Trend to multi-species mixtures
• Improved soil carbon and crop productivity
• Understanding aim and species selection
• Irrigation and seed availability often limiting

Mixed species cover crop in macadamia, Bangalow NSW (soil carbon +2.5%)
Cover Crops

Mixed species (Sunn Hemp, Millet, Tillage Radish) cover crop planted into corn in Kalbar, QLD
Compost

- On-farm compost production
- Increased carbon and nutrient availability
- Increased crop resilience to weather extremes
- Woody material and transport cost the challenge

On-farm compost production in avocados, Childers QLD (soil carbon: 1.5%-3.1%)
Minimum tillage

- Trend to controlled traffic (permanent beds)
- Vertical rather than horizontal tillage
- Strip tillage equipment, roller crimper
- Maximise benefit of cover crops

Park Organics, Meridian, CA
(Increased soil carbon with cover crops and minimum tillage)
Minimum tillage

Rye corn cover crop, strip tilled and planted into cucumbers, Cowra NSW
Biologics

• Complement holistic system approach
• Symbiotic relationship with roots
• Increase nutrient availability
• Uniformity, quality and nutrient density

*Bacillus amyloliquefaciens* QST 713 (Serenade® Prime)
Biologics

Biological system* + Serenade Prime (14 Days after harvest)

Biological system* - Serenade Prime (14 Days after harvest)

• Biologics complementary to shelf life in tomato production, Bowen QLD

* Compost and cover crops
Thank you

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