

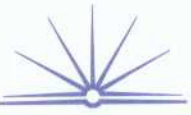


Global changes in organic farming has affected the whitsed farm in Jindabyne in a positive manner.

Organic farming is a method of ~~farming~~ <sup>agriculture</sup> that uses and depends on the surrounding natural environment to grow and harvest various foods such as fruits and vegetables. The methods used in organic farming are quite different to industrial agriculture. Many people are now looking for foods which contain no artificial colours or flavourings and are looking for foods that were grown with minimal damage to the earth. Organic farming uses the methods ~~as~~ such as using worms to break down the soil, creating sufficient air flow into the ground and keeping nutrients, which come from worm poo, in the soil. The whitsed farm in Jindabyne produces organic milk and uses organic methods to ultimately produce the

milk. The farm is situated over 231 hectares of land and uses various organic methods. The farmer not only uses worms for the breaking down of his soil, but he feeds them cardboard, which they break down. This enables the farmer to dispose of unwanted cardboard in a way that doesn't harm the earth and also encourages the worms to add extra nutrients to the soil, creating healthy beneficial soil. When the farmer (John Whitsett) harvests his crops (rye, wheat, grass) he stores the off-cuts in large plastic rolls as silage under the ground. This can then be used later as a natural fertilizer for the farm. By doing this, no artificial fertilizers are used which may cause runoff and ~~dependency~~ dependency from his ground for chemicals. ~~one~~ The farmer also applies sugar to small areas around ~~some~~ some of his plants to





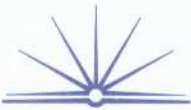
prevent large bugs causing damage to the plants by borrowing into the ground and eating away the roots. Many of the bugs that cause damage dislike sugar. Once the grass is grown through using water and natural fertilizers, his cows eat the grass and produce 100 per cent organic milk. Even though this milk is charged at \$2 per litre, it is highly sought after by large food chains including coles and woldworths. Organic milk isn't the only product that is sort after for it's organic benefits. Many restaurants are now incorporating organic ~~menu~~ food menus in the restaurants because there seems to be a strong trend towards purchasing these 'cleaner' foods. Even though the prices may sometimes be higher, people are willing to pay that bit extra to ensure that they are eating organically produced



food.

Another style of farming that is similar to organic farming is permaculture, introduced by Bill Mollison. This style of agriculture incorporates ~~an~~ many similar practices that organic farming does. Bill Mollison states that instead of using tractors to plough the ground, we can use chickens. As the chickens peck the ground, it creates the same effect yet without the petrol consumption and exhaust fumes placed into the atmosphere. He also suggests that by letting many varieties of plants grow together in one area, that they could grow as they would wild and a vast jungle of several different types of fruit and vegetables would be available to the farmer. Outside showers could also be used for the gardens benefit as we wash ourselves, the





Surrounding areas of vegetation are being watered. These are just some of the methods Bill Mollison discusses when he talks about Permaculture.

In conclusion, the whole idea of organic farming and Permaculture is to create a sustainable agriculture. If people are practicing these methods of farming on a regular basis, then many areas of vegetation that were once bare can thrive again. Also, organic farming has a positive affect on John Whitsted's farm at this point in time as he has been running this type of operation for over four years. This re-inforces the fact that many people are prepared to help in the promotion of organic foods, whether it is buying the food or producing it, in a hope that we are benefiting the earth and we are benefiting enterprises that



are prepared to approach this way of  
farming.