

CROPS, cont.

- Knows that weeds, insects, soil conditions, plant growth (roots, tops, colors) are all tools and clues to evaluate his program.
- Knows the impact of crop rotation on reducing weed and insect pressure and improving soil, soil life, and future crops.
- Does everything in his power to harvest at the correct time to maximize quality and yield.
- Provides proper storage to maintain crops as quality feeds. Includes inoculants on all fermented feeds to reduce spoilage.

LIVESTOCK

- **(The biological farmer)** provides clean, comfortable environment to keep livestock content and promote maximum health and production.
- Feeds livestock a palatable, balanced, steady diet featuring quality home-grown feeds, fresh clean water and access to free-choice minerals.
- Knows feeds from the biological farming system are the best you can get. They are grown on healthy, alive soils with balanced, good levels of minerals.
- Knows that these feeds do not always follow the "traditional" balance numbers. The rules may change!
- Frequently checks to be sure the feeds are in balance.
- Uses the best quality additions to balance nutrient deficiencies, including protein, energy, and mineral supplements when necessary.
- Animals are not continuously fed antibiotics. Antibiotics are used as a treatment only when absolutely necessary to save the health/life of the animal.
- Animals are not injected with synthetic hormones in order to promote enhanced growth/production beyond their natural genetic ability.
- Understands and works with natural beneficial organisms within every animal.
- Feeds the extras - kelp, yeast, probiotics, digestive aids, extra vitamins - from day one.
- For cattle, feeds a ration of high-quality forages (mineral-balanced from healthy soils), fed at high rates with lower levels of grain.
- For hogs and poultry, uses a ration of high-quality grains (mineral-balanced from healthy soils) with low levels of forages.
- For breeding animals, knows that longevity is important.
- Evaluates his livestock program based on cattle appearance, health, comfort, manure, breeding efficiency, and production.
- Knows livestock must meet **all** the above characteristics to be profitable.
- Treats the livestock manure to maintain nutrients and control odors (natural phosphates, gypsum, and beneficial organisms.)
- Uses livestock manure as an important source of soil nutrients. Spreads the manure in thin, even and timely applications.

RESULTS

- The farming system is driven by profit not just production.
- The farmer knows that to get all this working takes time. Every soil, farm, and farmer are different.
- Profit is generated more from the farmer's knowledge and management than from monetary inputs to the system.
- The farmer works on the cause of the problem - does not want to always put out brush fires (dealing with symptoms.) Knows that with biological farming the problems will continue to decrease over time.
- The farmer understands nature and works with it rather than against it - maximizes natural interactions of pests, predators, and environmental conditions to his advantage on soils, crops, and livestock.
- The farmer knows that healthy crops are not plagued by insects or diseases, and can compete with weeds under proper management - can spend less and worry less.
- The farmer knows that healthy livestock don't always get sick. They breed and produce when fed balanced diets from healthy, balanced soils - can spend less and worry less.
- Biological farmers know this is their best shot at being profitable, sustainable farmers. They can be proud of how they take care of the land, livestock, environment, and the food they produce.
- Biological farmers know that farming can be fun and profitable - and perhaps their children will even *want* to farm!