

Natural Sequence Farming - A Land User's Perspective

By Paul Newell *

I had come to a point in my farming life where I realised that I had three fundamental problems:

- Spending money from a dwindling income – as costs.
- Compliance with regulations, based on community concerns – as costs.
- Running out of soil moisture at critical periods of production – as costs.

Then I found a fourth problem:

- Everything I worked at was not maintaining Nature or me – but only maintaining the 'accepted' methods of dispersing everything I wished to accumulate.

As fate would have it, around about this time I met Peter Andrews and life has not been the same since. Meeting Peter allowed me to find alternative ways to address the problems above, within the natural processes of my farm. This then became my focus and I started farming in a new paradigm.

1. By inventing ways of doing things more naturally and using what I already had available on my land, reduced artificial imports to my landscape and reduced my expenditure.

2. By aligning land use enterprise practices to induce whole of landscape function and by reducing the purchase and use of artificial products, machinery, chemicals, fuels, earth moving and labour to produce farm commodities.

I found that more of the community concerns, compliance and expenditure issues, seemed to dissolve as I did things more naturally on my landscape.

3. By finding natural ways of recreating landscape form and redeveloping the retaining mechanisms for substance, specie and function, production growth is now continuing further into dryer periods, reducing expenditure and increasing potential returns.

4. Through intense study and experimental research, I increasingly realised the value of natural function and also realised that I and our communities generally, had been profoundly unaware of the nature of matter and function.

I then reversed my view, my landscape management practices and the function of my landscape.

My landscape is now rapidly increasing in nature conservation and production, simultaneously.

The enterprise costs, community concerns, compliance and expenditure issues are dissolving and I am being maintained – naturally.

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