

# REPORT FROM ALROC SEMINAR

CENTRAL COAST NSW - March 1999

Arnold Sluice the ALROC National Consultant presented information on ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER from 7 years of trials on grain crops, pastures and livestock, sugar cane, citrus, macadamia nuts, orchards, and vineyards. Huge quantities of ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER are being used in Queensland, South Australia and Western N.S.W. Most farmers test the product with trial plots, and the message is clear;- the quality of produce is always improved and often the quantity as well. No negatives accompany the use of ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER. The environment, the farmer and the community are protected by using ALROC'S blends of rock dust.

The improved quality of produce is revealed as higher sugar levels in fruit, grapes, and cane, higher protein levels in grains and pastures, higher mineral content and taste, longer shelf-life for produce, with less pest burden. Arnold told us that often the best results appeared after the 2nd to 3rd year depending on the paddocks past history. Past chemical fertiliser use will have acidified the soil and damaged the micro-life in the soil. A few years will be required to remineralise the soil, rebuild soil structure, neutralise the acidity, and establish the all important soil micro-ecology. A cattle farmer attending the seminar told of his experience with ALROC. He said in 6 months his pasture improved and the health of his herd was visibly superior, after swapping from a chemical fertiliser regime to a natural ALROC blend.

Arnold demonstrated his faith in the product by crushing the prilled (granulated) MINERAL FERTILISER to reveal just how finely it is released into the soil and then tasted the rock dust. He explained how livestock owners from dog breeders to vast cattle runs feed their animals ALROC in lickblocks, mixed with grain or simply added to the drink troughs. A member of the audience explained how he allows his large herd of alpacas free access to ALROC in trays, which they appear to relish. Over the months this mineral supplementation program has improved their coats and overall health. Arnold told of sheep graziers curing scours by feeding ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER to their flocks. Most ALROC minerals are applied to the soil in the normal fertiliser program and the minerals reach the stock through the mineral-rich pasture.

Apparently in Europe doctors prescribe liquid mineral supplements as a general health tonic because the soil is so mineral deficient. They argue that if the soil is low in mineral content then the meat, dairy products, eggs, fruit and vegetables grown on the soil is also mineral poor.

Arnold explained that soil forms from rock particles and that ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER is made from carefully sourced rocks which contain a broad spectrum of natural minerals. There are now 11 different blends to choose from, 6 of which are **BFA** certified organic inputs. Custom mixes are also available if the soil analysis reveals special requirements.

Organic matter is now added to all 11 blends of ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER, because the last 7 years of trials has revealed how well the carbon-rich blends have done in improving humus levels, soil structure, moisture-holding capacity of the soil and raising the CEC levels of the soil. The CEC or Cation Exchange Capacity of the soil is roughly equivalent to how well the soil can hold onto nutrients, Arnold explained. CEC levels will be shown on your soil analysis (Range;- 2 very poor to about 40 excellent).

Organic matter is added to the blends in the form of composted Coal dust. The micro-fine Coal dust has

been buried and composted for over 20 years. It is added as dry carbon dust to the other rock components in the ALROC mixes. The most popular natural ALROC mix contains crushed volcanic Basalt, Granite, Dolomite, Bentonite, Rock Phosphate, Rock Potash and now includes Coal Fines.

As well as raising CEC levels ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER has been shown to consistently raise the pH of acidic soils. The trials have shown that 500kg to the hectare of ALROC improves soil acidity problems better than 2Tonne of lime per hectare. This quantity of lime releases an enormous amount of calcium to the soil and can create an imbalance while correcting the pH problem. ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER releases a broad spectrum of minerals while correcting the soil acidity.

Arnold finished by explaining how and why people become members of S.A.F.E., the company which manufactures ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER. Members receive the ALROC LEADER quarterly newsletter which publishes all the trial results of ALROC and the other S.A.F.E. agricultural products. Members also receive a \$5 per Tonne discount on ALROC purchases and an additional small rebate from the company for purchasing any of their healthful products including ALROC. S.A.F.E. stands for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Enterprises and it manufactures only high quality mineral-rich products. Life Membership of S.A.F.E. costs \$50. If you wish to continue to receive the information stream (newsletters and the company rebates) after the first year, a cost of \$25 per year (second year onwards) is charged to cover printing and postage. Life Membership entitles you to the discount on ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER from your local ALROC Depot and the right to purchase any of the S.A.F.E. products directly from the company at wholesale prices for life.

If you wish to receive more information about ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER, or to become a member of S.A.F.E., or to borrow one of the two ALROC videos, please contact us (see below).

ALROC INFORMATION VIDEO No.1:- contains an interview with independent soil scientist Mel Lynch who runs North Coast Soil Testing Services. Mel has 30 years experience analysing soils and advising farmers on their soil requirements. Mel gives a very informative talk about what to look for in soil nutrition. The video continues with farmers discussing their experiences with ALROC MINERAL FERTILISER.

ALROC INFORMATION VIDEO No.2 :- shows how and where ALROC is made and continues with some amazing interviews with grain, lucerne, cattle, cotton, and grape producers. Both videos are professionally produced and can be borrowed free of charge.

**ALROC is available from CABANS NURSERY at MORISSET**

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