Climate Balance

OUR SOIL AND FRESH WATER ARE OUR TWO MOST PRECIOUS ASSETS - IF WE CAN'T EAT AND DRINK, WE DIE. WHAT WE EAT COMES FROM THE SOIL AND WHAT WE DRINK IS MAINLY STORED IN THAT SOIL. WE CAN'T EAT AND DRINK TECHNOLOGY.

Our forebears came to Australia from Europe 230 years ago, from a mostly non-brittle climate to a mostly brittle one. Their rainfall varied greatly in totals per annum, but rainfall events were frequent, and they had many humid days in the year, so their soil carbon sponge was usually hydrated, with green plants photosynthesizing much of the year except in the very cold months. Consequently, their soils were high in carbon and could stand frequent tillage without losing too much of that carbon.

They found here a continent which was largely brittle, with a seasonal and erratic rainfall, few humid days, and long periods between rainfall events; a hot dry continent where once herds of large herbivores had roamed, but they died out, leaving huge quantities of fuel uneaten, resulting in horrific lightning fires which destroyed many of the inland's trees This caused a hot high pressure dome to develop over the middle of the continent, which blocked most of the Australian monsoon, causing the soil carbon sponge (the in-soil reservoirs) to dry out.

The Europeans didn't realise this old brittle land had to be managed differently from their non-brittle homelands. Their egos and paradigms didn't allow them to be humble enough to defer to nature and change their European management practices. They tried to bully nature into accepting grazing and farming methods unsuitable for this environment. They tilled and tilled, and fallowed and fallowed soil, and set stock grazing land; they killed much of the soil life, the bacteria and fungi which could have helped them, they caused carbon to oxidize into CO2, and they exported away from their land carbon in the form of wool, meat, grain and hay, not realising that the soil carbon supply was finite, and had to be replaced.

Indeed, today most land managers are still doing much the same thing, using artificial fertilizers and sprays to replace the lost carbon, and using round-up, an antibiotic, which is death to soil biology.

I farmed with my father in the early 1950s on some of the best soil in the world, the Darling Downs. We didn't know what fertilizers and sprays were. There must still have been enough carbon left in our soil to give us good results (come to think of it, those soils hadn't been farmed for long). We used best-practice farming methods, keep the soil tilled to break up the capillary action in the soil which we were told cost us moisture.

Not long after that, the carbon in the soils did start to run out, just as cheap fertilizers became available, and of course they were a great success for awhile, till they completed the demise of the soil life, and more and more fertilizer was needed to get results - the beginning of the "more on" era. Nowadays farmers are finding their slice of the pie is getting smaller and smaller after they pay for their inputs, and there is growing interest in changing from industrial farming to regenerative biological farming. How can they be helped to change, because changing costs money. The chemical companies are doing well, but not the farmer.

Governments can't change policies until a groundswell of public opinion makes it politically safe for them to do so; think of smoking, the ground swell that made smoking seem the wrong thing to do, and governments then felt safe enough to make it illegal in all sorts of places, so smoking died out in no time and those who still smoke are discriminated against. Could it be that in this decade regenerative farming will become the "in" thing? Will governments feel safe enough to help the transition with cheap loans or grants, in spite of howls of anguish from the fertilizer and spray companies?

Does any government in Australia realise we are wrecking our most precious assets? President Roosevelt said in the 1930s: "A nation which destroys its soil, destroys itself." Will our governments try to discourage the fertilizer and chemical firms from financing universities on the premise that they teach students the "more on" philosophy, and not the regenerative one?

We now realise miraculous photosynthesis (which technology can't copy) is the one and only way that carbon dioxide can be taken from the air and mixed with sunlight and water from the sponge, making carbon sugars which can be permanently stored in the soil. And the microbes which live on it in the soil can harvest and put into our tucker the vital nutrients which let us keep plugging along; they provide us with the where-with-all to resist the catastrophic increase in ailments such as cancer, dementia, diabetes, and hopefully to prove wrong the frightening prediction that one kid born out of every five will be autistic.

Perhaps it will be for health as well as for financial reasons that industrial farming will become unfashionable in the future.

Two books which I Recommend as Essential Reading:

Call of the Reed Warbler - Charles Massy

For the Love of Soil - Nicole Masters

Also to download from your computer:

Restoring Water Cycles to Naturally Cool Climates and

Reverse Global Warming

By Walter Jehne

There are many scientists and others talking about how things have gone wrong. But Jehne is the only one I have found who has then suggested ways mankind can actually change and control global warming and climate change, by letting nature do what she has always done to keep the climate in balance – at very little expense.

Massy lists at least 10 sicknesses which scientists think have become more common because our food is <u>less</u> nutrient-dense since WW11:

Osteoporosis

Dementia

ADHD & Autism

Allergies

Asthma

Obesity

Heart Disease

Infertility (especially in young men)

Cancers

Parkinsons

Liver problems

Our gut microbes are lacking the micronutrients which come from food produced on soil fertilized by soil microbes, and not by chemically produced fertilizers.

Rob Archer