

# Sustainable Farming Workshops

## SoilCare Inc



*"... the foundation of sustainability begins with respect for nature and feeding the soil."*

Bob Shaffer



SoilCare Inc  
Box 525  
Alstonville  
NSW 2477  
Australia  
[info@soilcare.org](mailto:info@soilcare.org)

## BOB SHAFFER WORKSHOPS

NOVEMBER 9 - 12, 2009 AT WOLLONGBAR, NSW

- WORKSHOP 1 THE ROLE OF COMPOST IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING.
- WORKSHOP 2 TRANSITIONS TO ECONOMICAL, SIMPLE, SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES.
- WORKSHOP 3 SOIL BIOLOGY, SOIL HEALTH AND FOOD QUALITY IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING.
- WORKSHOP 4 GROUND COVERS, TILLAGE AND THEIR USE IN DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE FARMS.
- WORKSHOP 5 SOIL MINERALS AND DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE FARMS.

Bob Shaffer is a horticulturist, agronomist and viticulturist for Soil Culture Consulting located in Glen Ellen, California, heart of the famous wine producing region of Napa - Sonoma.

Bob has been consulting and training farmers in sustainable, science based farming systems in sub-tropical and temperate environments for 35 years. He is a regular presenter at ACRES USA conferences.

Bob is on the faculty at Napa Valley College teaching cover crop use in wine vineyards. He is broadly experienced in development and management of cover crop systems for farms, orchards and vineyards. Bob looks at cover crops from a whole-farm perspective including soil biology, soil physics and how the cover crop interrelates with food production and quality.

Since 1994 Bob has divided his time between California and his farm in Hawaii

where as a farmer/consultant he is involved in crops as diverse as taro, coffee, ginger, avocados, macadamias, pineapples, herbs, tea, vegetables, mangos, nursery crops, spices and more. Kona Keei Farm, producing organic coffee, avocados and macadamia nuts, is being developed as a demonstration farm and school for sustainable farming practices.

Bob also specializes in compost development and use. His clients include compost companies where in daily cooperation with farmers, restaurants and produce packers they compost tons of food scraps recycled from San Francisco and create millions of tons of compost that are applied to vegetables and vines just north of San Francisco.

Bob understands soil, plants, their health and their diseases and works with farmers to develop management practices that fit each farm's environmental, social and personal needs.

## FREE 1 HOUR SEMINAR

**'Soil health is the foundation of sustainable farming'**

SoilCare Expo 2009,

Tuesday, 10 November at Wollongbar Agricultural Institute

more info at [www.soilcare.org](http://www.soilcare.org)



CARING  
FOR  
OUR  
COUNTRY



# the good news... the system is simple and inexpensive

## Workshop 1

### THE ROLE OF COMPOST IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING

**Tuesday, 10 November 2009**  
**4.30 - 7.30PM**

The character of compost for farming soils.

Benefits of compost for soil, crops and the farm environment.

Composting for bioremediation of toxins on the farm.

Composting for pest prevention.

Feedstock, recycling and composting rock.

Processing and methods to save nitrogen and carbon from loss.

Curing and elevating the quality of compost.

## Workshop 2

### TRANSITIONS TO ECONOMICAL, SIMPLE, SUSTAINABLE FARMING PRACTICES

**Wednesday, 11 November 2009**  
**9.30 AM to 12.30PM**

Good news is that the system is simple, inexpensive and effective.

The system requires practice, skill building and time to build soil health.

Farming with the intention to elevate food quality and soil health.

Why sustainable, biologically integrated farming systems produce greater economic yield and higher crop quality.

Key steps to successful transition of crop cultural practices.

Experience from the past 35 years of agriculture in transition.

Outline of a transition to revised cultural practices.

Three cultural practices that are the foundation skills to develop.

Effective, economical cultural practices produce whole farm benefits.

*“simple and inexpensive but learning, nurturing and time are required for best results”*  
**Bob Shaffer**

Elevate the farm’s capacity for high quality production.

## Workshop 3

### SOIL BIOLOGY, SOIL HEALTH AND FOOD QUALITY IN SUSTAINABLE FARMING

**Wednesday, 11 November 2009**  
**2.00 PM to 5.00 PM**

Agroecosystems and the soil environment.

Life in the soil and soil structure.

Nine soil dwelling animals, mulch and water infiltration into soil.

Seven essential biological functions that only bacteria, fungi, nematode and protozoa provide.

Elevating crop quality by feeding soil animals.

Soil health and disease resistant and tolerant crops.

Humus and food quality.

Ground cover and humus.

Humus and compost.

Food with very high quality characteristics is the result of good soil health.

## Don't miss

**SoilCare Expo 2009**

**Tuesday, 10 November at Wollongbar**

**8.30 AM to 4.30 PM**

For more information visit:  
[www.soilcare.org](http://www.soilcare.org)

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#### Workshop 4

### GROUND COVERS, TILLAGE AND THEIR USE IN DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE FARMS

**Thursday, 12 November 2009  
9.30 AM to 12.30 PM**

Using ground covers to provide humus, carbon, lignin as well as to feed the soil.

Plants, roots and soil.

Plant diversity, soil health and crop quality are inseparably intertwined.

Insectaries and above ground habitat for beneficials, predators and parasitoids.

Non host, rotation and diversity.

Biological fumigation with brassica.

Tillage purpose and strategy.

Tillage and holistic farm benefits.



Bob Shaffer teaches cover crop use in wine grapes at the Napa Valley College.



*It's in the open spaces in soil where the most abundant, diverse and healthy soil animals and plant roots are found."*

Bob Shaffer

#### Workshop 5

### SOIL MINERALS AND DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE FARMS

**Thursday, 12 November 2009  
2.00 to 5.00 PM**

Mineral availability vs. mineral quantity.

Minerals as parent material for soil development.

Minerals in soil and their balance.

Minerals and plant biomass, diversity and benefit to sustainability.

Mineral analysis and interpretation of results.

Minerals and their holistic function in soil.

Mineral amendments and applications.

Minerals and soil health.

Soil minerals and developing sustainable farms.

### MASTERCLASS

(this workshop is not included in the workshop fee package offer- see back page)

**Monday, 9 November 2009  
4.00 to 7.00 PM**

**The masterclass workshop is designed for consultants, agronomists and practiced biological or organic farmers.**

Outline of a transition to revised cultural practices.

Good news is that the system is simple, inexpensive and effective.

Experience from the past 35 years of agriculture in transition.

The system requires practice, skill building and time to build soil health.

Key steps to successful transition of crop cultural practices.

Farming with the intention to elevate food quality and soil health.

Three cultural practices are the foundation skills to develop.

Effective, economical cultural practices produce whole farm benefits.

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**For more  
information  
visit:**

**[www.soilcare.org](http://www.soilcare.org)**

**Masterclass  
workshop -  
\$60.00.**

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# Workshop fees and bookings



*"Farming can help you to better understand the nature of our world."*  
Bob Shaffer

## Bookings

Special rates apply for bookings of two or more workshops. (see fee schedule below) Note: the masterclass is not included in the special rates.

To book for the workshop, complete the booking form and forward to:

SoilCare Inc, PO Box 525,  
Alstonville 2477

or

email: [info@soilcare.org](mailto:info@soilcare.org)

fax: 02 6628 3310

You will receive a tax invoice with options to pay by cheque or electronic transfer.

For more information:

Email: [info@soilcare.org](mailto:info@soilcare.org)

or phone

Bonnie Walker: 02 6628 1788 or 0408 359 429

Pam Woods: 0417 486685

## Bob Shaffer Workshop Fee Schedule for 10 - 12 November 2009

	One Workshop	Two Workshops	Three Workshops	Four Workshops	Five Workshops
SoilCare members					
Students with ID	\$40.00	\$65.00	\$85.00	\$105.00	\$120.00
All others	\$50.00	\$90.00	\$125.00	\$150.00	\$165.00
Masterclass on 9 November is \$60.00 per person.					

Venue for all workshops:

The Hudson Room

Wollongbar Agricultural Institute

Industry and Investment New South Wales

(formerly NSW Dept of Primary Industries)

1243 Bruxner Highway, Wollongbar, NSW



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