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This package of separate spreadsheets helps with more farming operations than any other software package and does some farming calculations that no other software does.

They are simple to use on any computer with a spreadsheet program and if necessary can be altered to suit the farm. The few instructions that are necessary are on each template (mostly on the right) making learning and operating fast. No instructions book is needed.

I find that very few farmers know how much it costs to grow pasture and crops, or how much it costs to keep a cow for a year. If you don't have figures how do you know if you are improving? If you don't improve, you can go backwards.

Testimonials

Waikato dairy farmer Craig Brown emailed, "Very useful. Feed Budget is very good & has all the relevant and other useful information. Being spreadsheets means you can tweak them to your requirements. An excellent buy."

Craig Benbow, Applied Management and Computing Division, Lincoln Agricultural University, Christchurch, New Zealand, wrote, "I appraised VJ spreadsheets and found them comprehensive and easy to use".

Description

Farmers' requirements vary, so they can adjust the spreadsheets to suit their operation. For USA some templates are in both hectares and acres or kg and lbs so whichever is entered applies while some spreadsheets have been written separately in kg and ha and in pounds and acres.

The price for the 50 spreadsheets is only NZ\$230 including GST, or about US\$160.

In New Zealand, the first year depreciation tax saving on software is 48%, which is NZ\$96, and NZ\$50 in the second year, etc., so after income tax savings the final cost is very low.

List of Spreadsheets available on GarzingInfo.com

Read before using spreadsheets.doc

Weight Gains Beef lb.xls

Animal Units.xls

Animal Weight Gains.xls

Beef Weight Gains kg.xls

Beef Weight Gains lbs.xls

Blood and liver levelsV1.3.xls

Borrowing and Investing.xls

Budget Profit EFS.xls

Business cards.xls

Calculate areas and cubes.xls

Calving to Match Growth.xls

Cash Flow Dairy.xls

Cash Flow Drystock.xls

Conversion Calculator.xls
Dairy #Cows For Max Profit kg.xls
Dairy #Cows For Max Profit lb.xls
Dairy Heifer Grazing Off.xls
Dairy Heifer Rearing Costs.xls
Dairy Heifer Target Wts kg.xls
Dairy Heifer Target Wts lb.xls
Dairy Production per Cow Target.xls
Dairy profits per cow.xls
Farm details 1 05~08.xls
Farm Records2008.xls
Feed Budget Beef kg.xls
Feed Budget Beef lb.xls
Feed Budget Dairy kg.xls
Feed Budget Dairy lb.xls
Fert and effluent values.xls
Fert Application Accuracy.xls
Fert Beef P Rates.xls
Fert Compatibility Mixing.xls
Fert Nitrogen DM Returns kg.xls
Fert Nitrogen DM Returns lb.xls
Fertiliser Order kg.xls
Fertiliser Order lb.xls
Fertiliser P analyses.xls
Fertiliser P Profit Taranaki.xls
Gestations Pulses Temps2.xls
Grazing40Percent Rule kg.xls
Grazing40Percent Rule.xls
Interactions Soils Pastures.xls
Investments Off-farm.xls
Invoice.xls
Irrigation Calculations.xls
Land Prices Effect on Costs.xls
Mineral feeding.xls
Nitrogen cost DM.xls
Overdraft Vs Loan costs.xls
Pasture Analyses Stats.xls
Pasture Analysis.xls
Pasture Elements By Season.xls
Pasture Fertiliser Lime trials kg.xls
Pasture Fertiliser Lime trials lb.xls
Pasture Silage Hay Crop costs.xls
Pasture yields and values.xls

Pedigree Form.xls

Rearing Costs of Animals.xls

Tractor Operating Times.xls

Water Analyses.xls

Weight Gains Beef kg.xls1 Read before using spreadsheets.doc

Weight Gains Beef lb.xls

The following explains some of them -

You can adjust all spreadsheets to suit your farming.

- Conversion Calculator. Converts metric to imperial and Celsius/Fahrenheit both ways, exchange rates, times in countries, monitoring urea spreading, mineral weights to feed, tractor time per ha & acre & areas covered and many more.

- Cow Data and Earnings by Fat + Protein - Litres, age and weight corrected. It selects most profitable cows to keep and breed from or cull which is something not all herd testing organisations do. It can use LIC or Fonterra payout projections. It was written before the LIC Breeding Worth. In fact I suggested to Dr Brian Wickham of Livestock Improvement Corporation in 1986 that this system was needed. They released BW seven years later, but with complications which they have since improved.

- Crop & Pasture Production Costs & Returns. Your farm and costs can be entered.

- Dairy Feed Budget. Record monthly (or more frequent) pasture cover and growth, and helps budget feeding of pasture, hay, silage and grain, giving stocks of each remaining after each period. Helps decide when to harvest and when to cull. Gives expected production, so if not being achieved, reasons can be sought. Gives eye assessing methods and figures in dry matter.

- Dairy Heifer Grazing Off Costs, Target weights (essential to ensure optimum size) and Financial benefits.

- Dairy Production & Earnings/Milking cow from grain. US and NZ figures.

- Element requirements. Shows how much should be in pastures.

- Farm Profit and per hectare or per acre. To compare profits between years and between farms.

- Farm Statistics. Records farm, paddock, grazing, fertilising and any other statistics.

- Fertiliser Order. Calculates fertiliser and element costs, and after income tax cost.

- Fertiliser Phosphate Recommendations. Based on production of dairy farms and dry-stock farms.

These figures are required to be recorded in some EU countries and may be required here in the future.

- Fertiliser Phosphate Returns. Showing the financial benefits of capital dressings.

- Fertiliser Values by kg of phosphate and other elements in main fertilisers.

- Invoice. Adjust to suit. It does GST or sales tax if required.

- Land Prices Effect on Costs. Calculates the land cost share of milk, meat and wool.

- Loan to Overdraft Ratio. Helps work out optimum overdraft/loan levels.

- Maximum Production. 40% rule for optimum milk and/or meat production.

- Maximum Profit. Calculates the optimum number of cows to milk for maximum overall profit

- from pasture.

- Minerals Soluble Feeding. Feeding minerals is important when grazing. This shows how much to feed through the drinking water.

- Off-farm Investments show the returns possible. My best-ever dairy farmer client didn't want to milk more than 120 cows and didn't want to move from his 35 hectare farm with a nice home, pool, etc., near Matamata where he and his wife had friends and relatives so at my recommendation they borrowed against their farm and bought several rental properties and are now better off than had they bought a bigger farm. He still has the pleasure of milking his 120 top cows. He has recently bought three race horses he is training as a hobby on his farm.

- Pasture Analyses Records of annual figures.
- Pasture Analysis. Shows optimums and effects of low and high levels.
- Pedigree Form. Lists three generations. Easily increased and personalised for your stud.
- Production per Cow Targets. Allows corrective action to be taken as soon as possible.
- Trial returns from different fertilisers, pasture species, subsoiling, etc.
- Volume, Area & Silage for tanks, silage, etc.
- Weight Gains/Animal and/Area.

If you would like a special spreadsheet written for your farm or business please let us know and describe it. There is unlikely to be a charge if we can include it with ours.

Background

Vaughan Jones as a farmer and consultant found it important to use and show spreadsheets to clients so they can be factual and accurate in their decisions of how many cows to milk based on each farm, not on area averages, how much and which fertilisers to use based on their pasture analyses.

The profits of many clients in several countries increased and many purchased the package. One of his clients in New Zealand and two in Japan won 'Most Profitable Farms of the Year' awards. One in the USA has gone from milking 90 cows to 700 all grazed. One in Canada went from losing money milking 600 cows to making money grazing milking 300 cows.

Phil Taylor, Ngaroma, Central North Island, New Zealand, wrote on graze-l, an internet farming discussion group -

"After being totally confused about fertilisers on my Taupo ash soils, I explained my problems to Vaughan Jones at a chance meeting with him in 1992. He visited my farm, saw the thatch, the Yorkshire fog, the few small-leafed clovers and the animal health problems, took pasture samples and recommended lime – which was usually not recommended in this area. The farm soon greened up and started improving. Neighbours noticed it.

The fertilisers he recommended based on information in his Excel spreadsheets were no more expensive than previous ones we had used. After two years of applications of Phosphorus Nutrient Planner which includes the necessary trace elements, animal health problems almost ceased, earthworm activity increased so dung patches quickly turned into 60 cm (2 ft) diameter green patches, grazing was much more even, thatch started disappearing, and the previously shallow roots penetrated to 25 cm (10 inches) or more.

Contrastingly green urine and dung patches in the early spring didn't show up because all was greener, and without the use of artificial nitrogen. Clovers made more N, giving the whole farm a green look which made it stand out.

Later, during the three years of beef downturn I applied no fertiliser, and yet I still had 17 NZ stock units per ha (1.2 US/a), and all except a handful of cattle went away prime within 18 months and lambs at around 17 kg (37 lb) dressed weight. The lime and slow release fertilisers recommended by Vaughan had kept working.

Vaughan Jones is a very well respected consultant in the Waikato. I know a number of farmers who have made a lot of money using his advice.

The above and hundreds of other successes were achieved using some of the spreadsheets above. Subscribe to www.grazinginfo.com > Spreadsheets.

Vaughan Jones
Agricultural consultant & journalist
GrazingInfo Ltd