

Lifestylers are increasing in number. Also read [Small Farming for tips](#).

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Introduction

Lifestylers are usually successful people with assets. The question is, are they using their 'home comfort' investment to best advantage? Most Lifestylers are likely to have some animals, so are also farmers, which means they have obligations by law to know about their care and health, so read www.farmcity.info > Animal Health > Symptoms and Causes.

The rules relating to the care of animals are easy if you obey the simple rules of correct draining of soils (so they are not standing in mud), liming and fertilising correctly (so they are well fed on heathy pastures), grazing of animals, and mineral supplements, based on pasture analyses, and providing clean water and access to natural shelter in extreme conditions.

The 220 chapters may seem a lot to read, but select those that specifically apply to you and your property, and to your animals and glance through them. No one can know or remember everything, but knowing where to find the information quickly makes life easier, safer and more rewarding.

Your children should also learn the basics of animal husbandry, so should glance through GrazingInfo to learn where to find what may be required for good husbandry and in an emergency, or for a school project.

Some schools breed earthworms to consume waste and to make compost, so all should learn the best ways. Reading the chapter in Soils > Earthworms will help do the right things, which can make the difference between success and failure - which can cause smelly sludge or dry smelly mould. Old ideas like turning the compost is work, causing negative results, and letting it heat is also wrong, so read Earthworms to see why.

Many small farmers and lifestylers get a fertiliser company to recommend fertilising, but that is like asking one car agent to recommend the best car. The fertiliser company will recommend their fertiliser and almost never recommend lime at a fraction the cost of \$14 to \$26 a tonne, which is often needed more than phosphate at NZ\$400 or Potash at NZ\$800 per tonne. For full details see the free Pasture Mineral Analysis, and Calcium Nutrient Planner and Phosphorous Nutrient Planner. These are two of the 60 Spreadsheets that cost only NZ\$300 plus GST for all 60, but can save you a lot more than that, and give you the satisfaction and the profit from success. Townies should also use the Cash Flow Budget Household.

For information on grazing read Pastures > Sampling & Reading Herbage, and the chapter on Elements > Calcium. Acting on the results of about \$140 pasture analysis from Hill or similar Laboratories is the only way to achieve healthy soils, pastures and animals. A veterinarian and medicines could cost more, and the death of an animal, even more.

Forming a group with your neighbours can be valuable in helping each other with sharing advice, animal handling and loading facilities, equipment, local knowledge, etc.

Reading the Small Farming chapter may help you. If you have animals, read the appropriate parts of this eBook. Subscribers can ask questions through support@grazinginfo.com

If owning sheep, or planning to, read Sheep Part 1 and search for "lifestyle".

If you have not already joined New Zealand Lifestylers <<http://www.lifestyle-farmer.co.nz>> and subscribed to the Life Style monthly, it could reward you to do both.