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Hi all,

Our sympathy goes to those with severely damaged irrigation systems, buildings, flooded pastures, and other disasters in New Zealand and fires in USA and Australia.

Not much, if anything, could have been done about the calamities in New Zealand, but the fires in USA and Australia always amaze some of us here and from South Africa, because the trees in USA and Australia have burned every few years for yonks, with most growing again and burning again. Australians are now using bulldozers to stop the fire spreading, but they should have been making fire breaks wherever necessary over their vast areas of gum trees from when fires first got out of control.

Unfortunately, some Australians have a craze of lighting fires. I've driven from Sydney through the Blue Mountains to the Australian National Field Days at Orange, and old, long dead grass could be touched by leaning out the window, so a cigarette butt could start a fire that burns millions of hectares over several days, and destroy thousands of homes built in the inflammable trees, with no attempt to have a fire break area of a hectare or more around them. I also think a large sprinkler system should be part of physical insurance and protection plans. Early settlers could be forgiven, but not now, for something that happens several times each decade.

For seventy years, some of us have wondered why Australians don't use roads as fire breaks as is done in New Zealand and South Africa, by keeping tens of metres clear, mown and bare, as are through our forests of comparatively fire safe Radiata pines in a moister area than Australia and USA. Gum trees are a very high fire risk, so need more care. Back burning skills, which we did in South African veld, are much easier and less costly.

Some are talking about growing gums in NZ for fence posts, etc. I hope they plan >50 metre fire breaks. I would not grow gums in the Waikato. Our two farms had gums planted by earlier owners. They were a costly nuisance. Hundreds were blown over in 1986, costing a lot to clean up. The strong winds we get don't damage our indigenous trees. The same has happened in USA. Allan Nation, editor of the Stockman Grassfarmer in Mississippi, told me that after a tornado went through their area all exotic trees were flattened, while indigenous ones were still standing.

If bureaucrats are involved, they'll not research it because they repeatedly rely on their very limited knowledge to influence things, hence the frequent mistakes.

Good positive news on facial eczema control

Since the 1960s, we and our good clients have had no facial eczema - without treating cows or pastures - because the elements in correct levels of LimeMagPlus increase earthworm numbers to such an extent that they eat thatch on which facial eczema spores multiply. We have never used zinc, which is killing the toxin rather than getting rid of the cause. Neighbours of both our farms had facial eczema affected cows in their back paddocks, while we had none. Read Animal Health > Facial Eczema.

The worst thing about using zinc is that feeding some types of zincs adversely affect animals and milk quality.

Magnesium and Zinc oxides and chlorides are fertilisers, not feeds, so when fed to cows they cause harm in the form of stress and digestive system damage, and adversely affect milk quality. Some vets have told me that chlorides damage cows' digestive systems.

When correcting the elements and using LimeMagPlus at the same time, the increased number of earthworms eat all the dung pats in grazed paddocks within about two weeks, which reduce the internal parasite infestations, so little or no reinfestations occur and worm drenching then becomes unnecessary. We and our good clients have not had to drench calves. Read Dairying > Calves.

LimeMagPlus increases earthworms which increase humus, which holds cobalt (and selenium), which in turn eliminates the need for drenching for vitamin B12, which is a sign of a cobalt deficiency.

Read Elements > Minerals > both Zinc and Selenium.

There are subscribers who have downloaded up to 500 items, but from the questions they ask, they have not read them! Again, the GrazingInfo readers are the ones succeeding.

Proliq

There are farmers buying 20,000 litres of Proliq from dairy companies for \$2,000 and feeding it to cows. It is a waste product from dairy companies. It is high in potassium (K). In the northern hemisphere, where most cows and beef are fed solely on mixed feeds, they aim for 1% potassium. Most New Zealand pastures have about 3% K, or more because they base their applications on the disastrous soil analyses, and get their advice from fertiliser companies that make most money out of K at \$850 a tonne. Think this one through.

Some dairy farmers are applying milk factory waste to their pastures. No one should apply it for more than two years because it hardens soils so much that pushing in an electric fence treadin becomes hard. After that soils get worse. After farmers refuse to take it off their hands for cash, some dairy companies have to buy land to spread it.

Warning

Some subscribers use other consultants, which suits me because it reduces my work load from 470. However, if consultants or salespeople criticise LimeMagPlus or Solminix, I can assure you that they are wrong, and just trying to sell you theirs, which has been proved on many farms in many countries. Ask them for evidence, with figures, of any claim they make, positive or negative!

LimeMagPlus photographic evidence

Soil samples in 1983 from this consolidated peat soil farm in Hamilton that had been farmed for 100 years, had similar pH levels on the right and on the left. LimeMagPlus had been applied at 5,000 kg per hectare on the left, and 10,000 kg on the right before resowing a year before.



The soil sample tests were taken on the same day in late February in dry conditions.

As shown, the left was weedy and dry with Yorkshire Fog and weeds, with little clovers, while the right was moist with 75% perennial ryegrass and 25% white clover and calcium levels were 0.7% and 0.9% respectively. It had previously been one paddock before being split for this trial.

The moisture difference could be seen and felt. I've seen similar differences in other soil types, with lower application rates. Every summer subscribers phone me and ask if the increased growth and greenness can be just from LimeMagPlus.

I asked Roger Hill, the owner of Hill Laboratories that did the tests, how it was possible that the pH was virtually the same when double the lime had been applied before cultivating then resowing it a year

before. He replied that this was common because of the different soil moisture levels. Note that the LimeMagPlus was the reason for the higher moisture level, and for the far superior ryegrass and clover growth, without weeds.

I know that in some rural areas, broadband or dial up can be very slow. If this photo makes it too slow, please let us know.

Roundup in maize

If you drive around the Waikato now you will see hundreds of brown paddocks. They are ones which have been sprayed with glyphosate in preparation to grow maize.

Monsanto have known for 32 years that Roundup causes the unborn in the womb to suffer damage so I would not allow pregnant cows to graze the Roundup sprayed pasture, and I would discourage pregnant women from driving around sprayed areas for up to seven days after spraying, in rain or morning dew. Monsanto claim that Roundup becomes inert after hitting the ground. This is far from correct, as when moist it can still affect the unborn for about a week. Some of us know women with children born with mild deformities, kidneys not quite right, etc., caused by exposure to Roundup. A friend of mine suffered it, as did six of her friends in the area who were pregnant at the same time, after a local body sprayed the berms.

Gluten

Twenty five per cent of you reading this will be allergic to gluten, but only 80 have downloaded it.

To my knowledge, no one has come up with a solution for the suffering of gluten caused diarrhoea, which is very severe and uncomfortable. I have found that Imodium eases the diarrhoea substantially. Two Imodium capsules spread over the day seems to work. However, nothing I know of stops the damage gluten causes to our villi. Gluten intolerance can also effect our brain so please read gluten and muscle test yourself. See > Human Health > Muscle Testing.

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