

Newsletter 109 5 February 2014

Correction

The annual subscription for GrazingInfo Ltd is now \$115.00 (including GST) per annum which was incorrect in the Newsletter 108. This is an annual subscription, so if you want to keep receiving Newsletters and haven't paid, we will be sending out accounts next week for the 2014 year. Many of you have already paid and/or donated, thank you and you won't get an account this year. If you have any queries, please email jane@grazinginfo.com

Good News

A seminar of spreadsheet demonstrations, Keynote (Power Point Presentation) with colour photos, and a field day in the park and our garden, will be held on Friday 28 February at 37 Ellerslie Avenue, Chedworth, Hamilton 3210, from 11 am to 2 pm. Drinks provided, bring your lunch.

Register by email and we'll send you a map. Admission of \$100 includes GST.

Joel Salatin visiting New Zealand

Grazinginfo Subscriber Greg Hart greg@thefamilyfarm.net.nz (ph 06-858-4343) has told us that Joel Salatin is coming again to run workshops in Australasia titled, "Fields of Farmers". Joel has been very interesting at previous visits.

For information look at <http://thefamilyfarm.co.nz/events-2/joel-salatin>

Joel is highly successful with his animal farming in Virginia USA because he owns little land and leases a lot, for next to nothing, breeding his replacements, and selling retail. The land lease costs are very low because they are for land owned by some of the wealthy in USA who want their land in green pastures with grazing animals, because it looks nice, and in the colder areas, so they can ski on it in winter, which they would not be able to do if it reverted to scrub.

He applies nothing to his soils and buys no supplements, both of which are impossible in New Zealand because of our low fertility, new, shallow, topsoils and severe mineral deficiencies.

I knew that Joel would be having the same problems our farmers have if they don't feed a good mineral supplement, which is to have stragglers that don't grow as fast as the best. I asked him when he stayed with us during his last visit two years ago and agree had the same problem. Solminix fixes it in New Zealand and Solminix is available in USA from Doug Gunnink of Minnesota, Ph 001-507-237-5162 dmill@grassfedisbest.com

Joel came to some of my USA seminars in the 1980s and has said that I'm his mentor and icon.

Farmers and growers are killers, but need not be

Many old fashioned farmers control or kill their problems rather than research the causes and use preventions. Examples are -

1. Zinc sprayed on pastures to kill facial eczema spores, whereas applying CalciumMagPlus and good farming (no urea or superphosphate) increase earthworms, which then eat the thatch that facial eczema spores breed in, which we, since 1958, and our good clients, have done, so have had no facial eczema without having to use zinc. Read Animal Health > [Facial Eczema](#).

2. Most kill internal parasites in their animals with drenches and some with pour-ons* when CalciumMagPlus and Solminix can help control parasites by making soils healthier so increasing earthworm numbers that then consume cow pats within two weeks, before the next series of animal parasites start spreading to re-infest your animals. See Soils > Earthworms and Dairy.

3. Some kill weeds in their pastures with sprays, when CalciumMagPlus in particular can reduce weeds and make them palatable so more, even buttercups, are eaten. Farms that have applied lime and its synergisms for decades have few buttercups and few other weeds.

4. They kill earthworms with urea and or other high N items, which also kill some good soil microbes and reduce organic matter, rather than CalciumMagPlus which, if deficient, can grow up to 150% more pasture with increased clovers, within a few months of application and rain.

5. Some kill pasture insects such as Grass grub, Argentine Stem weevil, Black beetle, etc., with toxins, when improving soils to get adequate numbers of earthworms to consume animal manure can eliminate their breeding grounds and controls them. Some use the best endophyte called NEA2 which is the most palatable one to animals.

6. Glyphosate used to kill weeds before growing maize for silage which was then fed to milking cows in milk, was recorded in the milk. Dr Mercola found the same in USA in early 2013. Before Roundup was available, dairy farmers used cows and or heifers to graze short and trample the pasture, then rotary hoed or power harrowed, then chisel ploughed and sow within two days to get weed-free crops or new pastures. See Soils > [Cultivation](#).

7. Red thread in lawns can be killed with a spray or eliminated with correct amounts of sulphate of ammonia or Ammo nitrogen, and growing a healthy lawn with CalciumMagPlus, mulching and earthworms.

Think about what you are doing in every respect, and work towards natural farming, so when the good farming rules are made by the Greenies, you'll be ahead of them.

Facial eczema

Most grazinginfo subscribers now know that CalciumMagPlus and correct farming can reduce, then prevent facial eczema. The question some are now asking is how will they know when they can stop using zinc.

Facial eczema control our way is successful when you have enough earthworms to eat all the thatch, which is where facial eczema spores multiply. This will not be until Ca is close to 0.8%, earthworms are close to 30 per spade spit, and thatch is all eaten. See photos in Animal Health > [Facial eczema](#).

Another indicator that earthworm numbers in soils are adequate is when dung pats are all eaten within two weeks of being dropped. This will also reduce parasite treating of calves, because parasites spread from dung, so the sooner it is eaten by the worms the better. Feeding Solminix makes calves healthier, and the earthworms too, because some goes through animals in the dung.

I hope you are all breeding earthworms and spreading them around your farms. Thirty earthworms per spit doubles the pasture production of a handful of earthworms per spade spit, both measured in moist soils, not bone dry ones.

Animals that are being fed high levels of zinc to control facial eczema can become low in copper and selenium, because zinc suppresses both.

Changing to feeding zinc, and especially after stopping it after having fed it for months, should be done gradually or cows can suffer low zinc for a while because of adaption. Because it is not stored in the liver, as done by copper, after getting too much zinc, their absorption of it becomes inefficient, as happens with calcium if clover pastures are fed before calving, or if fed calcium, which should never be fed to animals or consumed by humans. There are adequate amounts in the pasture and foods we eat, but it is not available unless boron is consumed with it.

All changes of feeds and minerals should be done gradually over a week or two. Go to Asia and feel what happens to your stomach for the first week or so. They have the same problem after coming here.

Serpentine

Serpentine from the Mossburn Southland company was sent to me for comment. It has many coarse grains in it that will not become available for decades because it is so hard, so should be ground as finely as pepper like Rorisons is, which gives results within a month. See my trial in Gardens > Vegetables growing big green leaves on a sick yellow citrus tree from a nursery, a month after applying serpentine and cultivating it in to 5 cm with a little Ammo.

All Southlanders should ask them to grind theirs to powder to speed its release. It costs a lot less than other forms of Mg, and has Ca and trace elements.

Maize

A lot of maize is grown in the Waikato. Almost all is getting worse each year because the organic

matter levels are decreasing, cultivation is not deep enough (not chisel ploughed) and soils are getting lower in calcium because CalciumMagPlus is not applied, and DAP is side dressed instead of being chisel ploughed in to 30 cm. All these faults are causing maize roots to be shallower so it dries out more. Mature plants can be pulled out by one hand, while ours with roots twice as deep need a shovel and two hands. Some maize silage crops are as low as 12 t per hectare, while ours and the best are 30 t. At 40 cents per kg, the extra is \$7,000 per hectare minus costs of \$1,000. Read Forage & Grain Crops > [Maize](#). I've told the two top staff at Pioneer, but deaf ears.

Plan autumn fertilising/liming now

These are usually applied in late March and April, but with most of the country doing the same, delays of three to four weeks in deliveries can occur, so do a pasture analysis now, and order soon after with your preferred delivery dates.

Soils sold as fertilisers

Several farmers, after applying humates, abrons, etc., some of which are just soils from above coal mines with parts per million of additives, have had an increase in weeds, and even got new ones. See Weeds for photos of it. I've just hung up from a Taranaki farmer telling me that Wireweed and Stinkweed (small daisies) are now growing where he spread a humate at \$1,000 a tonne. I say 'a' humate, because there are variations.

Suppliers deny it, but can you believe them when they sell you soil at a dollar a kilo!?

I've analysed some of these con products and found that the subsoil (no weeds) from under Horotiu Sandy Loam is better and gives better results. The reason for the good results is because topsoils, after a few decades of farming, become low in many minor minerals that are not replaced, but are still in subsoils, unless chisel ploughed to bring up subsoils and applied CalciumMagPlus to encourage deep rooting, essential for high production from grasses and clovers.

Hill country farmers

We look forward to suggestions from the last Newsletter from those grazing hills. As costs increase and incomes don't, we all need to learn the best ways. Please email us yours and say if you'd like your name mentioned.

Sharemilkers

Some of you will be seeking new positions. Be very careful. Some owners are fine but some have ignorant consultants/supervisors who run the farm and have all the power, so the sharemilker hardly ever sees the owner. If you know the consultant and are 100% happy with him, then it should be OK. However, remember that sharemilking is like marriage, you don't know the owner or consultant until you work with them.

You could be signing up for many years, so check with previous sharemilkers (not just one). If the owner won't give their names to you, walk away.

If the owner is not a practising member of modern natural farming practises, and is using urea, is overstocked, runs a high cost system, doesn't believe in CalciumMagPlus, etc., look elsewhere.

The same applies to sharemilkers. Check with the previous employers.

Truth About Fish Oils

The above heading revealed what it said. I muscle tested Omega-3 Fish Oil and found that, as with other mercury containing supplements, I was highly allergic to it, so changed to Krill Oil, which has no mercury. Dr Mercola has written about how Krill Oil is good for us, while many fish oils are not.

Krill oil is from a tiny, shrimp-like animal. Some whales and sharks eat krill. In Norwegian, the word "krill" means "whale food." People extract the oil from krill, place it in capsules, and use it for medicine. Some brand name krill oil products indicate that they use Antarctic krill.

Krill oil is used for heart disease, high levels of certain blood fats (triglycerides), high cholesterol, high blood pressure, stroke, cancer, osteoarthritis, depression, premenstrual syndrome (PMS), and painful menstrual periods.

Krill oil contains fatty acids similar to fish oil. These fats are thought to be beneficial fats that

decrease swelling, lower cholesterol, and make blood platelets less sticky. When blood platelets are less sticky they are less likely to form clots.

Fluoride

There are more deceptions about fluoride than most things. This leads to people becoming strongly fixed in favour or against. From a USA health specialist -

"I suggest that your dentist look at all the evidence objectively. A good place for him or her to start is the book by Paul Connett and others called "The Case Against Fluoride".

"More can be found in the book by Chris Bryson and Theo Colborn, "The Fluoride Deception." Finally, there is a chapter in "Health and Nutrition Secrets that Can Save Your Life."

"Also suggest your dentist examine the journal "Fluoride," an international publication that contains excellent studies."

In New Zealand, many of those supporting fluoride quote very old research, which has since been proven wrong. Read > Fluoride in Human Health Elements.

Sliming and removing your paunch the easy way

Google for 'Slim with mangoes' and you'll get 7,000,000 hits. They can't all be wrong. Eating whole mangoes, sliced and drinking juices, all help people slim. Also use my knee lifting exercise for a few minutes several times a day. I started them both many years ago when slimming and still on the fattening wheat. Weight dropped from 75 to 59 kg which is too low. I'd like to be 65, so stopped all mangoes.

The annual subscription is now \$115.00 (includes GST of \$15.00 in NZ, overseas there is no GST so pay NZ\$100/US\$90) payable every 12 months. You can find a blank tax invoice/receipt from Free

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Best wishes,
Vaughan Jones
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