

Preparing

In this part of the Waikato it looks like another dry summer, so, if you can because you applied enough CalciumMagPlus, do a ryegrass analysis now, because, if it doesn't rain soon, you may not be able to do one for months. You'll then be late ordering, and later still getting LimeMagPlus, which analyses show almost all still need, and because of the typical autumn rush.

Three days ago I did one from each of the farms we'll be visiting on Friday 28, and found calcium still very low, even after seven tonnes per hectare of LimeMagPlus applied in two lots on both, but so little rain has fallen since the second application, that it is not in the plants yet.

Milk quality

It was reported in 2013 that Chinese mothers were concerned about low levels of iodine in New Zealand milk. I checked and found that they were right, so developed systems described below, which have improved iodine and milk quality of those applying the recommendations. Below shows typical and good levels achieved.

The figures could not be sent in this so please read Dairying > Milk Quality, soon.

1. Bad levels typical on acid soils lacking LimeMagPlus and not fed Solminix.

2. Good levels because they did everything I suggested for a year.

3. Vet recommended Mg Chloride fed on pasture, so the milk quality crashed and the SCC rose from 105 to 220. Some chlorides and most oxides are close to poisons, not just in themselves, but also in what they do to soils and animals. Incidentally superphosphates make soils acid, and make the toxic elements available and the good items unavailable. Don't believe it? Do your trials and measure levels in pastures, not in soils, animals don't eat soils.

The figures with this can't be emailed, so will be in Dairying > Milk Quality - soon.

Toxic manganese

Manganese is too high in most of New Zealand's acid soils and in many bore waters, so should NEVER be fed to taken as a supplement in New Zealand, but 2 to 3 ppm is needed for good health in USA where Mn is low, especially in their alkali soils. Non-organic vegetables in the Waikato (high Mn area) vary between 15 and 25 Mn.

A subscriber was told by a so called health specialist that he was low in manganese and was prescribed it. He developed the symptoms that cows get, which in him was a bad temper and stress.

Milk from farms spraying their cows after milking with iodine teat spray, to control mastitis, contained some iodine, but a spray sitting on teats for 12 hours, and then getting into the milk, is not a nice way for babies to get their iodine.

As humans know, all New Zealand is low in iodine, but very few farmers supply it to their animals.

The quality of milk is affected by what the soils and cows are fed. Information on achieving this is in the 240 chapters in www.grazinginfo.com We are writing a chapter on Milk Quality.

Fonterra's job is to improve milk quality by teaching farmers. I communicated with Fonterra, but they wrote to work with DairyNZ!! Have you read their writings?

When checking NZ milk levels of iodine, I found many to be zero, or close to it, but not on my clients' farms, where cows were on correctly limed and fertilised soils, and getting iodine, salt and seven other soluble minerals in Solminix (DeLaval Mineral Mix), through online dispensers to all water troughs.

Licks and other systems don't work because the animal intakes vary.

In the drinking water all animals get the optimum amounts, because large and high producing cows need more, and drink more, so get more. Calves drink less.

The same good farming practises have eliminated facial eczema at no cost on our farms, and many more since 1960, while others influenced by zinc sales people can still suffer. Read Animal Health > Facial eczema.

Informing farmers about preventing facial eczema and other problems

When trying to get publicity, the media, often run by new juniors who know little about farming, so listen to DairyNZ, etc.

When I contact them, they don't know about me, so here goes -

Vaughan Jones ONZM, M.Mkt.I

Studied farming from 1946 to 1947. Gained honours (99%) in Dairying.

Developed parents 100 hectares near Greytown, South Africa, into mixed farm.

Dairy farmer in New Zealand from 1956 to 1984, Waikato's best dairy farmer in 1959, NZ Dairy Board committeeman, International Agricultural Consultant to 500 farmers, Author & Marketing Consultant, Agricultural Journalist represented New Zealand in USA and then in Austria annual meetings.

Invented 32 items.

Did hundreds of seminars and field days around the world between 1980 and 2005. Now 82, so don't travel much, and am kept extremely busy consulting for 400 farmers world wide by email.

Joel Salatin in 1980 and 1981 came to two of my seminars in USA, and has said that I'm his icon and tutor. In USA he has recently been called the world's best farmer.

During his previous visit to NZ in 2012 Joel stayed with us, and mentioned his problems, which I knew about, because since 1985 I've consulted for some of his staff, who bought their own farms. Land there is half the cost per hectare of farms in New Zealand, and they get twice as much for their milk and meat as we do. Their main problem is some beef animals not growing as fast as others, and I told him the simple no-cost solution. Read Beef, for more information, even if not farming beef.

Best wishes for rain for those who need it. Someone should tell the weather forecasters that fine weather at this time of the year, is not hot sunshine.

Vaughan Jones

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