

Newsletter 124

2 January 2015

We wish you all the very best financially, with good weather in 2015.

Human Health

Cows need magnesium, so do we. It avoids cramps and reduces strokes and heart attacks. Read about it in Magnesium in Human Health Minerals.

Over the years I have suggested different magnesium products after better ones became available which has happened again with Thompson's Organic Magnesium. It is excellent with no heavy metals, which is rare today. It has three good magnesiums and vitamin D3 which improves Mg absorption. Take it at night, because Mg is a relaxing mineral so could help you sleep better. I need only one every second night because I'm only 64 kg and both our Lime and Phosphate Nutrient Planner fertiliser mixes contain serpentine (magnesium silicate) to feed the nine vegetables we grow, which then give us magnesium the natural way. See Vegetables & Fruit Trees

Congratulations to the meat industry

I've heard of dairy farmers changing to beef. What a turn around!

Why? Because the demand for pasture fed meat is greater than the supply and because international total beef production has been decreasing since 2008, and in New Zealand, partly caused by beef farms converting to dairy.

In 1990 the milk payout dropped by 30% to \$2.55, the same as it was in 1980.

These must be lessons for our dairy industry. They can't produce more and more without increasing demand. Surely Fonterra should learn to add value like Tatua and Lewis Creamery have done, and to ditch the lazy auctioning, and start marketing the world's best milk on value, or at least start the auctions at \$6.50 equivalent.

Beef and sheep meats earned five billion dollars in exports last year. That is about half what dairying now earns.

The beef farmer subscribers I speak with are very happy with things, and would not change to dairying for anything, which is lucky because over-production is a main reason for the decreased payout.

Those selling dairy farms, be careful where you invest.

Silver Fern Farms are seeking funds through shares, or somehow else.

They have lost approximately \$30 million for two years in a row.

When studying 'Commercial' in 1944/45, which is what Accountancy and Finance were called, our excellent Jewish tutor told us two never place money anywhere you did not have full control of it, so this included no shares and no finance institutions - 100 went broke with investors funds a few years ago.

Read Investing.

Producing too much

New Zealand farmers of all kinds know how to farm and how to produce. All types of farming in New Zealand have gone through an over-production phase. Beef ages ago, deer venison and velvet, mohair, cashmere goats, goat meat, all did.

The dairy goat industry has been well managed by the Dairy Goat Co-operative (NZ) Ltd in Hamilton. There is another starting now. Let's hope that they behave sensibly by promoting benefits and creating demand, not just sell on price, and operate like Tatua Dairy Company which is to generate demand and when it increases they then seek more supply. Tatua took on ten more suppliers in 2014. Farms in their area are in demand and fetch a lot more than in other Waikato areas.

Now NZ has dairy cow production in excess, not just because of increased production for no

profit from bought feed like PKE, but because of no promotion of dairy products, and doing nothing about correcting the criticisms of milk.

Butter Quality

The New Zealand Herald recently stated on the front of the Business Section that, “Butter was not good for the population as a whole”. This information, which is partially true, I hate to admit, is likely to have come from the northern hemisphere where confinement and grain feeding produce unnaturally toxic dairy foods, some from antibiotics. It could have come from the Soy industry that rubbishes dairying to sell their bad products. The chapter Milk Profit & Quality in Dairying shows how to improve milk quality.

Fonterra won't do anything about it, like they did nothing about increasing iodine in milk as requested by Chinese mothers two years ago, so I did so and told Fonterra how to, and told you all in the chapter Milk Profit & Quality. I plan to get a few different butters analysed to study the problem. I know that heavy metals are stored in fats, even in the fat of people, and I know that the toxic heavy metals in soils, where most things originate, are more available in superphosphate treated acid soils, and less available in LimeMagPlus fertilised neutral soils. This is shown in Milk Profit & Quality and on many farms that changed, as did Farmer A in Milk Profit & Quality.

The bias against butter is likely to have originated from the northern hemisphere's grain-fed cows, produced in smelly barns from cows fed grain and antibiotics and standing most of their short lives on concrete in their muck, for only their three milking seasons.

A survey I did in London food retailers while Auriel was shopping in 1982, revealed that those shops selling butters all told me that New Zealand butter was the best, with none ever returned by consumers, which was not the case with the European butters they sold.

Confinement stupidity

Six dairy farmers went to USA in the late 1970's and came back and changed to the USA system instead of grazing. All went broke or gave up within a few years so their silos stood unused, and Doug Woolerton wrote in GrazingInfo Testimonials, “We lost our Peacockes Road dairy farm (near Hamilton) because of using the American confinement ‘cut and carry’ and bought feed. He wrote, “Good on you Vaughan for pointing out its many failings in New Zealand.”

None of the six allowed for USA subsidies, cheap 50% subsidised grain and the higher price they got for milk.

Never believe a salesperson, so be careful of veterinarians

There are twice as many vets now as a few decades ago and not many more animals. So vets rely more on selling minerals and medicines. Vets don't like it when I help their farmers because they like frequent visits to sick cows, selling them supplements and medicines they are agents for, and not necessarily the best ones. For example some recommend their own mineral mix for animals that doesn't include salt, which is the most important mineral there is, because pastures can't take up enough. Kikuyu takes up almost none. Cows fed concentrates benefit more from the salt and other essential minerals in it, than from the grain in it. So most vets discourage my advice which is not surprising when I change weekly vet visits to occasional ones to vaccinate their calves (I hope yours are already done.) and to take blood tests. Good farming makes Vitamin B12 injections unnecessary. See the Blood, Liver and Urine Levels spreadsheet, and read Cobalt.

Get blood tests soon from your two healthiest highest producers, two average and two worst condition producers. Not what vets say, “Any 8 or 10.” You won't learn from that.

No income or not, cow blood tests twice a year and ryegrass analyses twice a year, must be done because efficiency and accuracy for profit have become more important than ever.

Complete Ignorance

The Fonterra \$4m a year Dutch manager Theo Spierings, was quoted in the NZ Herald of 29 January 2014, “New Zealand is 8 to 10 years behind Europe in dairy farming sustainability, and that ‘indoor farming’ was the solution.”

What utter and complete tripe! Europe's average subsidy to dairy farmers is 50% and they are paid more for their milk, and in his home country, dairy farmers are made to drill the manure into the

soil to reduce the smell that confinement dairying causes their public to complain about.

On a tour we were on in Europe, passengers asked the driver what the sudden smell was. "We have now entered Holland, where they can smell their cows standing in their manure in barns and the heaps of animal manure confinement causes." Some in Europe store it in tall silos to spread in summer and plough in. It is so acid that it kills earthworms, so what does it do to soil microbes and good bacteria. In Holland farmer 'dung runners' get rid of it by carting it away at night and dumping it where they can, hopefully without getting caught.

The Japanese dairy farmers' biggest problem is the smell their cows make which upsets their townies. They and others from the northern hemisphere always ask me why our cows and dairies don't smell. I explain that ours graze pasture naturally, like ruminants have done for a million years, so digestion is better than when fed grain which the ruminant system is not made for. Using a spade, I hold fresh cow manure up to overseas visitors noses and they can't believe that it has no smell whatsoever.

Fonterra has wasted* millions of dairy farmer dollars overseas buying factories, including resurrecting failed ones in Australia, so Fonterra then markets Australian milk against ours, and is not just teaching, but also helping China and others produce low cost milk.

*I based the word 'wasted' on the lack of results after Fonterra's 12 years. Spierings has said that we should help other countries learn the New Zealand low cost way. Who pays him?

Fonterra has helped China and others with dairy farmers' money, to produce more milk to an oversupplied market without generating demand. Is Fonterra mad? They promised that the relationship would benefit New Zealand, but when and how? Fonterra is ruining our dairy industry, which when it was the NZ Dairy Board, was the envy of the dairy industries world wide.

In 1955 when we bought our farm, the NZ Dairy Board milk payout was \$14/kg of MS, adjusted to today's currency, which is easy to do. Cows then were 20 pounds each and now \$2,000.

Our 60 hectare farm was poor 2 to 20 metre deep peat, milking 28, 45 then 60 cows by 1958 when income bought a new 3 bedroom Lockwood home for cash with no borrowing. In 1960 when milking 120 cows, we bought 29 neighbouring hectares and in 1962 a Keith Hay house for a 29% sharemilker, both from income without borrowing. It shows the profitability of milk then, but I was also doing a little consulting which I had to because so many farmers came to our farm after we won the NZ Dairy Board's most improved Waikato dairy farm in 1959.

Fonterra gives your milk to children. The government used to do it. Why didn't Fonterra offer to give a 10% discount on milk to the government to do what is their responsibility for all schools?

The criticism of beef generally, that we sometimes read about, is also based on northern hemisphere grain fed beef which has fat marbled right through it. We cut all the fat off meat because it holds the highly toxic mercury that causes autism, arthritis, brain, joint and back problems.

Removing mercury

After we avoided all sources of mercury such as amalgam, supplements containing it, deep sea fish, Bay of Plenty fish polluted by White Island, macadamia nuts, etc., and draining it out of our bodies, Auriel and I became healthier. My crook back for 50 years became perfect - amazing and what a relief. As are many, I'm highly allergic to mercury so use muscle testing to reveal it and avoid it in water, supplements and foods. Read Muscle Testing in Human Health.

Mercury is the worst pollutant in the Waikato River from the Wairakei deep well bores and the Kinleith Paper Mill, so is in Hamilton and some Auckland waters.

Water Filter

Mercury is recognised to be a problem in USA from discarded circuit boards and burning so much oil, causing all their 300 rivers to have more mercury than is suitable for drinking. USA company Amway has made an electronic carbon block eSpring filter with ultra-violet disinfection and electronically removes contaminants including chlorine, mercury, manganese, lead, pesticides, Giardia and cryptosporidium, yet retains the beneficial magnesium and calcium. After a year it beeps to tell you to replace the filter.

Unfortunately it is only drinking water size, so is not big enough for all the house water supply, or for farm water systems.

For more details contact Margaret Kirk at kirkmarg@xtra.co.nz or 027-281-1220 or 09-299-2380

or Box 75107, Manurewa, Auckland 2243.

We, some urban and farmer users are thrilled with the improvement to water which other filters had not achieved.

Dairy Farmers re Income Tax

If necessary, see your accountant immediately and do the figures to stop paying income tax, otherwise you could pay on last year's income, and it is slow to get it back from IRD. It took us years and they made us pay current tax before they would return our credit. Don't ask me why.

Forage Crops

Last week I bought some Phosphorus Nutrient Planner and Lime Nutrient Planner that I got Rorisons to mix based on Waikato ryegrass levels, for our garden from Lynda Kamphuis in Newstead, and came back via Vaile Road to see what the DairyNZ Lye and Scott Farm pastures looked like. They are still crying out for lime, but their managers know nothing about pasture symptoms. If they joined www.grazinginfo.com they could learn the symptoms. Their pastures are uneven and patchy, have very few clovers and dandelions are increasing, all signs of needing calcium and its synergisms.

What pleased me on Scott Farm, was that they are now growing a crop of forage brassicas for grazing in summer. It is growing very well. This is the first one that the 'establishment' has sown for about ten years. The last one at Ruakura on Tramway Road yielded only 5 t/ha because it was rotary hoed, under-drained and without lime in a sour soil. Grazinginfo members get yields of 12 to 16 tonnes per hectare from turnips, Pasja with summer grasses of Nutrifeed, Shirohie millet or chicory. The highest yields are from chisel ploughing LimeMagPlus and/or Phosphorus Nutrient Planner fertiliser in to 20 to 30 cm.

I wonder when the Establishment (DairyNZ, LIC, etc.) will grovel and acknowledge their costly mistake to farmers and apologise for giving wrong advice for 10 years, by their saying that growing forage crops is not profitable, all based on their not knowing how to grow a decent forage crop.

Sad News

The saddest news in 2014 was the failure of Fonterra's auctioneering of the world's best milk at acceptable prices, and the second saddest was the reduction in the number of organic dairy farms by 50% because of ridiculous rules and Fonterra reducing their premium payment which is a third of what the northern hemisphere organic farmers get.

Private enterprise farmers, without the very costly DairyNZ bureaucracy, sell New Zealand free-range eggs in USA for 12 times more than the local Californian eggs, partly because ours are genuine free range and without genetic modification. Everyone should learn and remember this, and tell the sceptics.

Solutions

I like to be positive and to point out reasons, benefits and solutions. GrazingInfo is full of them, for example LimeMagPlus, doubles pasture production, after a year or two eliminates Facial Eczema without zinc treatment, and reduces weeds. With the best soluble minerals of Solmin (mix your own) or Liquimin and magnesium sulphate, reduces calf worm drenching, or even eliminates it. All are dependent on having plenty of earthworms. Almost no farmers breed them and spread them around their farms. It is something their children can do and should be rewarded for, because earthworms can double pasture production. Auriel did our 107 ha Greenhill Road farm over three years. Read Soils > Earthworms to see the proof. Earthworms are gregarious and don't move around much so become inbred. Move yours around your farm and get some from other farms, or from us. Dig and see the hybrid ones increase in size and vigour. Be aware that you'll be wasting your time unless your ryegrass calcium level is at least 0.65% calcium and aim for 0.8%, with other levels where they should be.

Read the Facial Eczema chapter again. It has had a lot added to it.

Grazinginfo has no advertisers or commercialism, so our information is more accurate than a lot of what we Google for, and what we read in publications. Farmers must avoid being gullible and learn that they can't trust or believe sales people, starting with vets who sell their own minerals that don't have salt in them. If I were allowed to feed only one mineral, it would be salt. Bell-Booth, who

I helped in 1979, had a full page advert pushing zinc for facial eczema as if it was the only solution and would fix all. Some promote supplements to produce more milk for no profit, which reduces the world milk price, further decreasing the dreadful payout of today. Organic sales people sell kelp and claim it has needed minerals, but much cheaper sea salt has all minerals of the sea making kelp a waste. Kelp has more heavy metals than salt. Ten years ago I took kelp for iodine and suffered the symptoms (itchy stinging back) of heavy metals, as have others. Read the two chapters on Salt - farming and human health, and Mercury.

Most publications don't like upsetting their big advertisers, who work with the 'establishment', so they don't publish anything that reduces advertising, for example preventing Facial Eczema without treatment, reducing calf worm drenching, or even eliminating it at no cost, just by good farming, reducing and preventing weeds by good management, and many more farming tips that are in the 200 chapters, 60 farming software spreadsheets, and 49 human health chapters.

A hundred testimonials have come from happy members, and no wonder, because those who read and apply the information have gone from loss situations to netting \$100,000 dollars a year, and then more.

The payout is likely to increase within a few months because northern hemisphere winter reduces milk production.

The world is increasingly wanting and quoting grass-fed milk as being good for us. I call it pasture fed, because cows do better with clover in the pasture giving more magnesium and

Cutting Costs

This is in all farmers' minds.

Why do you do what you do? Topping?

Topping trials show that it is a negative. It is a cost and spreads the manure over the grass which makes it unpalatable to animals so they eat less, unless continued rain washes it in. Toppings also makes Facial Eczema spore feed.

If a paddock was not grazed short enough it is because there was too much pasture in the paddock, so it should have been grazed sooner or shut for silage and the next paddock grazed. Rather than top, leave the cows in it for a bit longer and milk a bit later, or graze it sooner next time. I've never seen a farm taken over by under grazed clumps but have seen farms growing less because they were topped too short. Ryegrass likes to be grazed before 25 cm high and never to below 7 cm.

I never topped and had better pastures and much higher production than neighbours who did. See photos in Facial Eczema.

What is your ryegrass calcium level?

If it is below 0.6% Ca, then you are losing money on your farm, which LimeMagPlus can help fix. If your Ca is 0.75% or higher and your Phosphorus is 0.35% or lower, you need a Gafsa fertiliser mix done with a Phosphorus Nutrient Planner spreadsheet. If unsure, you can do on farm trials by buying a bucket full of each from Lynda Kamphuis, 33b Marshmeadow Road, Newstead, RD 6, Hamilton 3284, 300 metres off the Morrinsville Road 26. Phone 07-858-2200. john.kamphuis@maxnet.co.nz Take bags or buckets. She gets it in bulk to be cheaper.

If you haven't done LimeMagPlus trials on your farm you won't know how much you could gain. I know there is no money now for anything, but if you can make a profit out of it in one year, which most can, it is profitable to apply it, or Phosphorus Nutrient Planner if ryegrass P is low, which it is on only 5% of NZ farms, while 90% have fixed P that LimeMagPlus makes available. Read Beef for an example.

I'm always happy to do mixes based on your ryegrass analyses, and to check your figures. Email your pasture figures, preferably entered into the Pasture Minerals Analysis spreadsheet or Pasture Minerals Records spreadsheet. Enter into the yellow cells. Don't type over the blue ones. Accuracy is important. The first one you do will take you time, but after a few and seeing the pasture figures improve, it'll become easier. I help over the phone if necessary. Children are often faster at it and enjoy it.

Good News to end with

Sales of cull dairy cows at some sale-yards have been higher than last year's, which is good, because drought or not, about 90% of dairy farmers milk too many cows for maximum profit, and for correct feeding and the highest production from today's genetically improved modern cows - very few of which are adequately fed.

I hope all farmers used the Dairy Cow Numbers for Max Profit spreadsheet to work out the ideal number to milk. It takes only ten minutes. 228 members have used it, which is good, but all dairy farmers should do so, to help get the maximum profit possible - not just the most milk.

At my request, AgResearch Ruakura checked my figures in Oct 1991 and stated that the production/cow could increase by even more. Lincoln University in January 2013 approved and recommended it.

Many dairy farmers who have used it, have increased profits by \$100,000 a year and then more.

A major advantage is that milk production can decrease and profits increase.

Best wishes

Vaughan Jones

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