

## Newsletter 126

14 April 2015

Thank you from us both for the kind wishes to Auriel re her accidental fall in the garden.

She is home now and her usual happy, positive, smiling busy self, picking and freezing tomatoes, and doing housework of course. Her hip and pelvic breaks are healing and joining, so no operations, no installing steel pins, etc., were needed, thank goodness. Specialists were surprised how little damage was done possibly because of her taking boron, zinc and copper, plus other supplements. Read the Human Health chapters on all three. Bones are brittle and can break. Copper bends, so if in bones it softens them slightly. Lambs on steep Poverty Bay hills were breaking legs in their first week of life. Fertilising with copper at 3 kg per hectare stopped them breaking legs. We add copper (and all deficient minerals) to the garden fertiliser that Lynda Kamphuis Ph 07-858-2200, sells and we use in our garden where we grow nine better than organic vegetables.

An X-ray last week showed everything is improving well. She is now using a walker to strengthen her legs again, after two months of no use. All is free under New Zealand's wonderful ACC and the Waikato Hospital, the biggest in the southern hemisphere.

I've learned a lot over the last two months, i.e., how much women do, and how well Auriel did things, including the accounts in GrazingInfo Ltd, Jones Properties Ltd and our personal ones, so it is wonderful having her back and doing so much, so a BIG and grateful thanks to her and to all the other unsung female heroes who do so much in their quiet modest ways.

### 1080 Threat

This is likely to have come from a milk producing farmer in a milk exporting country or an overseas milk company. About 25 years ago a dairy farmer in Wisconsin, USA wrote on an international dairy discussion group that USA should Nuke New Zealand because the New Zealand Dairy Board was exporting, so dumping (selling below the cost) milk at prices below their cost of production. The Dairy Board was wrong selling so cheaply and I told Chairman Frank Onion this.

It upset a lot of dairy farmers around the world and achieved nothing, except to break the first exporting rule; don't upset the local producers (which price undercutting does) because the locals will always win with the support of their countrymen and government.

I've been to USA twenty times and Europe a dozen consulting, and on hundreds of dairy farms, and have had to defend New Zealand for selling dairy and meat so cheaply. As you all know, the recent auction prices are well below the cost of production. It sets the price for all dairy products worldwide, which upsets millions of dairy farmers.

Fonterra could fix it by starting auction prices at the equivalent of \$7.00 payout (or higher), and work towards scrubbing the failed auction system.

In the 1960s the milk payout was \$14 equivalent and costs were a fraction of today. Milking 60 cows (the average herd size then) allowed us to buy a new three bedroom Lockwood home out of income with no borrowing and we had a 90% mortgage at 6%.

The other NZ dairy companies have long waiting lists of potential suppliers, but have to build factories to handle them.

Fonterra suppliers should dig their toes in and insist that the over-paid managers scrub the auction system and start marketing NZ dairy produce on its merits, and stop investing NZ dairy farmers money in competing countries. Fonterra has spent millions in China to help their milk production increase by 12%.

### From Human Health Minerals - Zinc

Zinc has calmed boys who were stropky and/or naughty. A preschool boy at age 4 and now self employed at 25, remembers biting his sisters and being stropky. He remembers his bad behaviour and how zinc improved his temperament. Taking one drop a day of oral Zn sulphate changed him to a nice friendly gentle boy within a month. This amount is in a Good Health Premium capsule and in

Zincaps, a government prescription zinc. See the two Zinc chapters for more information.

### **Health Tips**

As well as zinc deficiency, many who I meet suffer from other mineral deficiencies. Magnesium is very low in New Zealand, hence milk fever in cows, unless serpentine is applied and magnesium fed in the drinking water as required. A human deficiency causes cramps, strokes, collapses and even heart attacks. Low selenium causes stiff necks and other muscle problems. 25% who I muscle test are Gluten Intolerant. You should all glance through Gluten Intolerance and Selenium in Human Health, so that you are aware of the many consequences of being deficient.

### **Human Health**

Carrots are not affected by Roundup (Glyphosate), so some growers spray them with it to control weeds. Supermarket carrots we got measured contained Glyphosate. Pineapples from the Philippines also contained some. The tops had more than the bottoms, showing that they were sprayed while growing.

Using Glyphosate near drains and waterways is banned in Australia because it is now in their underground water, despite claims of Roundup's safety by manufacturers, those selling it and some companies that promote No-tillage products.

Sales people have told me that some users complain about the headaches it gives them.

Holland, Peru and others countries have banned Roundup completely.

### **NZ Fieldays 10 to 13 June 2015**

Those of you who intend to go to the NZ Fieldays from within NZ or overseas, should read Fieldays Parking Accommodation & Buses - in Sundry. It tells you how to find your car in the many parking areas, or how to get free parking at the Knox Street car park in Hamilton, and free transport right to the Fieldays Exhibition Area, saving a long walks both ways, possibly from the airport.

### **Interest Rates that Farmers Pay**

Borrowing interest rates are 3% in Switzerland and in Japan, and are higher in New Zealand than in most countries, so many overseas people place theirs in NZ banks rather than earn only 1% in the above two. The money coming in makes the NZ income look higher than it really is, which increases our exchange rate artificially, penalising exporters which is what most farmers are.

Most of the large banks are Australian, which have no feelings for New Zealand, and want high profits, which is why our interest rates are so high, so the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, which the National Party likes because the rich vote National and the poor vote Labour. The Australian banks are making a fortune. About three years ago their annual profit was eleven billion dollars, which went to Australia. In that year the total dairy industry export earnings were the same amount, so all those on dairy and other farms, and the rural towns, are working for Australia's benefit.

Most banks are fleecers. If you don't ask they'll charge. Some farmers have negotiated lower rates. We have three accounts, all with Taranaki Savings Bank, where we get the best rates, and almost no charges. We also have some in Kiwi Bank to keep TSB on their toes.

### **Bureaucracy Costs and Inflation**

In the year 2000 a farmer wanting to drill a bore for water, would go to the local council, explain it in a few minutes, pay \$52 and get a permit. Today it is \$400.

Farmers are being strangled. Many have been fined way above what is reasonable, so, again, should dig their toes in.

The Waikato River is cleaner now than for 50 years, but the media don't mention this. Mercury from the Kinleith Paper Mill is the main polluter, and town dogs swimming in it and spreading E-coli, while the Hamilton Lake is the most polluted by far and getting worse, and nothing is being done about it.

### **Effluent Handling**

Stored effluent becomes acid and bad. Long before New Zealand farmers were made to store

effluent for long periods, Switzerland and similar long winter countries stored it. A Swiss University farm asked me to solve the problem of the stored animal manure from silos killing their pastures and earthworms. I told them to add agricultural lime to make it neutral and to start it decomposing, which reduces the volume, and to spread it more thinly, and/or onto land to be cultivated. There are farmers here who have refused to build half million dollar ponds, so increased the area irrigated and applied effluent more thinly, which is a much better arrangement.

Soils vary in their ability to absorb and hold effluent. Typical peat has a low rating, but if LimeMagPlus is applied and earthworms are spread, it improves.

Too many farmers are not separating rain water from the effluent which increases the amount to handle.

### **Earthworms**

These can double pasture yields if bred and spread onto pastures that have been adequately limed. Now when every little bit of extra pasture is very valuable, farmers should be doing this. Read Earthworms.

### **Lime**

The 36 pages on Calcium in Minerals, Soils & Pastures and applying LimeMagPlus has helped make more money for more members than anything else, so please, at least, skim through it.

If you don't, please avoid all substitutes of agricultural lime and calcium. Some have fancy names and there is Fine Lime and Granulated Lime which earthworms can't use. They are all dearer, especially Dolomite in the North Island, give less calcium and don't have what your farm needs, and don't have anywhere near the success that LimeMagPlus has had.

In about 1985, when phosphate fertiliser was unavailable for a while, and farmers were struggling under the Rogernomics's ACT 25% interest rates, Lex Riddell, a successful dairy farmer near Gordonton in the Waikato, applied 2,500 kg per hectare of lime (2,230 lb per acre) on the surface of his 58 ha of mineral soil, and grew more pasture than previously, to the extent that neighbours asked him how did he had so much pasture. The lime had released other essential elements like so called 'fixed phosphate'. His bloat also reduced to being no problem. A neighbour, who always applied more phosphate and potash per hectare than Lex did, suffered a severe pasture shortage and bloat during the same dry year. Another high stocking-rate neighbour, who used the department of agriculture fertilising recommendations based on soil tests, was frequently short of pasture. He applied no lime, and had bad bloat on most years caused mostly by high potash and low sodium. He died young due to stress. Lex is still well and thriving at 90.

### **Invoices for payments**

If you have purchased spreadsheets, or made a donation to Grazinginfo and need an invoice for income tax purposes, go to the Sundry Folder, download the one you need (NZ or overseas), enter your information and print it.

### **Buying products with free trials**

If you're signing up to try a new product offering a free trial, don't give your visa card details until you are happy with it. Always read the fine print to check if you'll get charged and check your statements. Visa payments can be stopped within a few days.

### **Soluble Mineral Mixes**

Adding magnesium sulphate to Liquimin need not be done at this time of the year, especially if adequate Serpentine has been applied.

### **Animal Scours**

If watery, it could be from high manganese levels in supplements, water and/or pasture, or all. Animals are usually nervous, kick more, scour more in the yard and shed, and move away from people. Animal abuse by staff can occur, more so if staff are also drinking high manganese water and eating high manganese vegetables, accentuated by superphosphate fertilisers which make soils acid so heavy metals become available. Read Manganese (Mn) in Humans.

If the scours is on the tail and then rubbed around the pin bones, it is more likely to be low selenium which makes muscles weak so the tail can't be lifted.

Brown and black (from blood) scours is more likely to be from internal parasites.

If loose with none of the above specific signs it could be from all of them or too much magnesium sulphate (Epsom salts).

### **Sheep Deaths**

Recently fifty sheep died on pasture in the South Island. It could be they were given, or accessed salt, and gorged on it, or any other toxin, like ash from coal fires, spread on lanes or gateways which has been eaten and killed cows near Te Aroha. Or it could be that the pasture was a lot different from the usual, for example a sudden change to lucerne or high sugar ryegrass. Some are promoting 'high sugar' ryegrasses, but ryegrass is already a high sugar grass and a sudden change to too much can cause sheep to die from clostridial bacteria disease. This is in all soils and can be brought on by a sudden diet change and can cause pulpy kidney, tetanus, blackleg, or other diseases. If suspected, call your vet.

Sheep can't tolerate excess copper, especially the sheep from Scotland developed there on a lot of low copper seaweed. If any of you know the farmer, suggest that he measures the copper level in the main grass. In ryegrass it should be below 7 ppm for New Zealand breeds of sheep and even lower for Scottish ones. If it is not excess copper, analyse the main grass for all 17 elements. Low cobalt can be a cause. Get Hill Laboratories to do it. Some of the other labs are not as accurate. If still not solved, suggest he contacts me at 07-853-7555 or at [vaughanjones1@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vaughanjones1@xtra.co.nz)

Questions I'll ask will be about the types of fertiliser used, LimeMagPlus applied, sprays applied, how short the pasture was, how long had they been in the paddock, were the dead the healthy ones or the thin ones, what weeds were in the pasture, were the dead sheep anaemic, what time of day did they die (nitrates are higher in the morning)?

Questions I'll ask will be has he read GrazingInfo\* Sheep 1 and 2, about the types of fertiliser used, LimeMagPlus applied, sprays applied, how short the pasture was, how long had they been in the paddock, were the dead the healthy ones or the thin ones, what weeds were in the pasture, were the dead sheep anaemic, what time of day did they die (nitrates are higher in the morning)?

\* All owners of sheep from Life Stylers up, should read the Sheep Chapters 1 and 2. The readers in this world usually thrive, while others can even die, or have animals die, from sheer ignorance. A New Zealand farmer in Australia had 120 cows die from eating Cape Weed in the pasture in the morning, when its nitrates are high. I spoke with him and he didn't know about Cape Weed or about nitrates.

### **Fonterra again - sorry.**

I always feel I am wasting my time writing and your time reading, about this extravagant, wasteful, misguided bunch of greedy people, led by someone who has written that NZ owes it to teach the rest of the world our low-cost milk production systems, as he has done in China, no doubt with their financial encouragement. Their annual milk production had been about 36 m tonnes pa from 2001 until 2013, when with the financial help (NZ dairy farmers money), Fonterra increased their production by 12% to 41 m tonnes. They are the world's third highest producer after USA 90 m tonnes and India 61. NZ is seventh with 20. China's increase of 4 m tonnes is a fifth of our production.

When Fonterra jacked up its record pay-out to \$8.75 it was to allow it to get away with reducing the farmers' share values, because they knew that suppliers would be moving from Fonterra to others for their better payouts, and taking their \$7.50 shares with them.

Charging farmers for those shares was a racket, because the dairy farmers already owned the NZ Dairy Board which had one dollar shares.

In the 1960s the NZ Dairy Board payout was about \$14 a kilo equivalent that allowed us to buy a new three bedroom Lockwood home in 1958 from 60 cows which was the national average then, and more land in 1963 from 80 cows, both out of income without borrowing.

In those days NZ was broke. Importing was licensed. Very few cars were imported so they were very expensive and new cars were almost impossible to get. Bringing my Ford Anglia with me from South Africa in 1954 doubled its value. Our exchange rate was equal to England's and South Africa's and 25% stronger than the Australian.

Since then dairy farmers have doubled production per cow and per hectare, and increased the herd size from 60 to 390, so New Zealand's economy is thriving - thanks to all types of farming.

What more can farmers do to survive???

They should insist that Fonterra starts marketing our milk on its benefits, starts the auction at \$7 until scrubbing it, and pulls out of its overseas production.

Dairy farmers, you will have to dig your toes in to make it happen.

Best wishes,

Vaughan Jones  
GrazingInfo Ltd