

Newsletter 127

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Bee Keepers

Check this Australian honey harvesting invention. It is amazing, and kind to bee keepers and the bees. It allows home and farm owners to have a beehive without the usual harvesting equipment. The honey just runs out. Some may be able to make their own hive.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_pj4cz2VJM

Some Politicians!

2,800 New Zealand state houses are being transferred to Tamaki Redevelopment Company owned by two government ministers. Who set the price?

The ministers are Bill English and Nick Smith, each of whom have a 29% shareholding, with 41% belonging to the Auckland City Council.

We should not call our politicians fat cats, but fat pigs, because their snouts are in the trough.

A problem is that some politicians are like bananas. They start green, some soon turn yellow and many end up bad.

Low Payout

The main reason for this is the stupid auction system where the buyer sets the price and buyers around the world refuse to pay other milk produces more than that.

Over production is another cause. Fonterra helped China increase their milk production by 12%. Prior to last year it had not increased much since 2001.

In New Zealand the dairy farmers who bought supplements

Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPPA)

Our government is negotiating an international agreement that could have a bad effect on New Zealand and our lives. It involves eleven Asian and Pacific-rim countries, including the United States. If it goes ahead, we risk damage to our economy, our pristine environment, our health, and the ability to shape our own future, which New Zealand has done so well that almost everyone in the world would like to live here. 20 of the homes on our avenue of 50, are immigrants. In the good days NZ needed them, now it doesn't.

TPPA will favour the large countries and large corporations so will be bad for New Zealand, our farmers, Japan and other small countries and be good for USA, as were the USA/Canada and USA/Haiti agreements. Read about how USA wrecked Haiti in the www.vaughanjones.info Political folder, and also read more about TPPA in the same folder.

USA currently pays around \$20 billion per year to farmers in direct subsidies.

Google for more on TPPA at www.itsourfuture.org.nz/what-is-the-tppa/

It is big, so will take time to load and open. Click the large arrow near the end - the PDF.

If you don't read this and don't do something about it, don't complain in the future.

New Zealanders are nice easy-going, placid people, who get fleeced by banks, causing borrowers, especially farmers, to suffer the highest interest rates in the Western World, which slows down development and increases poverty and bankruptcies.

Secret Negotiations and No Public Access

Because the negotiations are being conducted in secret, what we know about the TPPA comes only from leaked documents and detective work. This is not acceptable. We live in a democracy, which means we have the right to know what is done in our name and to have a say.

From what we know so far, if the negotiations are completed it will become much harder for even the New Zealand government to look after our environment, promote health, protect workers and consumers.

Our government tries to dismiss the critics of TPPA as anti-trade and being opposed to all foreign

investment. These statements are not true, and are disrespectful to the diverse communities across Aotearoa who fear the TPPA is being negotiated solely for big USA corporations, and not in the interests of ordinary kiwis.

In whose interests?

Our government says it is acting in New Zealand's best interests. If they really believe this, they should bring the negotiations into the open, and provide evidence of concrete benefits to outweigh the costs and problems. That is what democracy requires.

Does anyone have a solution to the problems of TPPA?

I hate not having solutions to problems.

What worries me is that if we join TPPA we'll have big problems as described, and if New Zealand doesn't join, the rest could, as a group, ban all imports from NZ, which would suit most of them, simply caused by STUPID Fonterra selling our dairy products so cheaply, undercutting dairy prices in all other countries and reducing world prices of dairy products, because all buyers say that the auction prices set the world price.

All New Zealanders must do something to learn what is going on. Once our government signs, we could end up like Haiti.

Google for www.itsourfuture.org.nz/what-is-the-tppa/

In it, Email the Prime Minister, Sign the Petition and Spread the News.

Back to NZ and our Animal Health

Two good farmers I know of were conned into changing from GrazingInfo recommendations by their vet selling Abron which is a bit like Humates. Both are soils, with minute amounts of necessary minerals added, to make it look good. None I've seen or heard about have improved pasture analysis. One increased weeds in what were perfectly weed-free pastures. In summer, one made the plants, even deep rooting chicory, wilt which the consultant and I found strange. None I know of apply them for more than a few years.

Avoid using any product that is not a basic lime or phosphate.

Vets don't like GrazingInfo because animal health improves so much that vets are hardly needed. The number of vets has increased so much so that each vet earn less, so some are selling what can only be described as junk products, as well as pushing their own mineral supplements, none of which contain salt, which is the most important mineral that animals need.

A dairy farm with animal health problems was having their cow's blood measured by their vet regularly. The farmer changed to feeding the original Solmin through the water after which their vet was amazed at the improved animal health. The farmer then changed to Bell-Booth minerals and cow blood quality and cow health crashed and they became nervous, so he changed back to the original Solmin.

Computer Cookies

These are complicated things to help computers work better without spammers, etc.

To access use Safari or your internet explorer, which you click on your computer, go to Preferences Menu, then to Privacy and set cookies as per your requirement. There are four options available. Don't click Always Allow, because that could allow spammers into your computer.

When you click options, all the websites that has excess to email you automatically will be shown. To my horror we had 1,433, so took quite a while to delete suspicious ones.

New pastures

Grazing newly sown paddocks is best done by calves to reduce hoof damage and to give the calves pastures free of parasites. If you have to drench them, do so a few days before grazing the new pasture.

Growing Maize

In Waikato's three drier summers up to 2015, sowing 80,000 seeds/ha yielded more than 100 seeds/ha. I have added this to the Maize chapter.

Budgeting

You'll all be sick of doing these

Feeding your pastures and crops correctly at the lowest cost is the most important of all.

Once a day milking is a labour and cost saver, and a profit giver. Read about it.

Mac Users

Your computer should be on system 10.10.3. If not, highlight the black Apple icon at the top left of the screen and click About This Mac and click Software Update. It takes only a few minutes and their dozens of updates have cost nothing for three years. They improve stability and eliminate bugs that badies keep spreading. Keeping up to date and using Disk Utility > click Macintosh HD and Repair Disk Permissions, which takes only minutes and it compacts

Drought Effect not Severe

Farmer A written about in the Milk Profit & Quality chapter in Dairying > Milk was able to cut three paddocks of ryegrass and get it analysed in mid March. Most ryegrass in the Waikato was brown and short. Over three years he had applied 12 tonnes per hectare of LimeMagPlus, so clovers were showing it and buttercup had halved. To fully feed them, he gave his cows two paddocks each day, and one at night, with some hay.

Many of us near Hamilton got 98 mm on 18th April. We hope you have all received enough rain to boost your grass.

GrazingInfo free

Now that it is free, more are joining, which motivates us, because we'd like all to benefit from it, to make our input more worthwhile and so the country benefits.

Only eight new subscribers have said that they joined after being encouraged by existing GrazingInfo members, so please suggest friends join GrazingInfo.com for theirs & their country's benefits.

Milk

About a third of New Zealanders, more in non-cattle originating countries, are allergic to standard milk, partly because of being allergic to the lactose in it. For those people, the adding of permeate (left over from cheese and butter, high in lactose) by some milk companies to their retail bottled milk, increases the bad allergy effect. In the distant past it was fed to pigs, then more recently spread on pastures, but after a few years the soils became so hard that an electric fence standard couldn't be pushed into the soil.

Lewis Creamery, Whakatane, 0800 539 477, enquiries@lewisroadcreamery.co.nz is proud that they don't add permeate to their milk, and don't allow PKE to be fed to cows that their milk comes from. I can confirm PKE, increases heavy metals in milk. Lewis milk is certified organic, and is true organic (no heavy metals), going by analyses I have had done and seen. Fonterra's are not. Their packaging is not organic.

The 'organic' milks of some companies are not organic, going by the heavy metals some contain, which come from using acid fertilisers like superphosphate, which release heavy metals. Neutral fertilisers (reactive phosphates) and alkali ones like LimeMagPlus (agricultural lime and deficient minerals based on pasture analyses) release the good minerals like magnesium and phosphate, and make the heavy and toxic metals (mercury, manganese, cadmium, etc.) less available.

Because whey powder is high in lactose, it should be avoided by those who are lactose intolerant. Dried whey, a very common food additive, contains up to 76% lactose which is far above the level of tolerance of most lactose-intolerant people. Also, all the whey powders I've checked have contained too much heavy metals.

I was looking for a protein supplement because I'm a protein person, so need ample with all meals. In the end I found high protein levels in our back yard! It is in kale, broad bean, peas, carrot and beetroot leaves (both have more nutrients than the bulbs), which we grow and put into green smoothies, with a kiwi fruit or two, maple syrup (a healthy sweetener containing copper which made my hair less grey, Edmonds Baking Soda, not another brand that contains aluminium, despite their claiming not, and Himalayan salt, or Californian salt which is second best. If living in South Africa, their mined salt is very good. Read both Salt chapters.

We grind the leaves up with pineapple juice. Smoothies are health giving by providing nutrients in their natural state and helping reduce heavy metals in our bodies. Don't drink more than a glassful a day, because it is powerful and upsets some digestions, which need adequate solids. I felt much healthier five days after starting smoothies.

Adding permeate to retail milk by some companies is common in Australia, and infuriates the companies that don't add it. One wrote, "Adding permeate to milk and charging buyers the standard milk price is absolutely criminal".

Lewis Creamery have on their bottles that theirs contain no permeate or lactose. There are no regulations in New Zealand re-adding adding permeate to milk because it is a dairy byproduct, but those adding it keep quite about it, and some say they use it to keep the protein above 3%, which I question. Some has only 0.9% protein, milk has about 3% or more. The heavy metals in most milk, including some organic milk, also comes for the containers of cardboard and coloured reconstituted plastic, which could have contained anything beforehand like Roundup and other farm products. Lewis Creamery use clear virgin plastic to make their bottles which have no heavy metals.

Good, pure, pasture fed organic dairy products are highly nutritious, safe and natural. Consumers today can choose from a wide array of different milks including no fat, low fat, calcium enriched or homogenised milk, which I avoid because the fat globules have been forced through a filter and made so small that they can't be digested.

Whole milk is made up of milk fat, protein, milk sugar, lactose, vitamins, minerals (including calcium) and water. It is a highly nutritious and quality product, naturally containing over 10 essential nutrients for good health and wellbeing.

The taste of milk generally depends on the levels of fat, protein and is affected by the breed of cow and fertilisers used. Heavy metals have a negative taste.

Dairy alternatives such as margarine are un-natural, with artificial flavouring, colouring and other additives to make them look and taste sweeter than butter.

Solutions to keeping NZ dairying profitable

Getting bigger has been the solution of all NZ animal farmers from the beginning. There is a limit to how big dairy farms can get because of cows' walking distance. Grazing heifers at the back of the farm to save cows walking there helps, also harvesting the back paddocks then in winter feeding out on them.

The 'getting bigger' and producing too much has changed all NZ animal farming types from profitable to unprofitable, and has now done so to dairying, with the help of our disastrous Fonterra that auctions the best milk products in the world.

See the new chapter on these.

Food & Health

Processed meats often contain less than 50 per cent real meat - the rest is additives and fillers.

Breakfast cereals can be as much as 40 per cent sugar so humans can average 32 teaspoons of sugar a day. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh-oeu2L8yM>

Every adult should listen to this. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sh-oeu2L8yM>

PKE has several problems. Excessively heavy metals of manganese and copper and apparently clean-looking PKE that can contain hazardous, mycotoxin-producing fungi and mycotoxins that could endanger the health of cows, and then the milk consumers from the contaminated milk. Cows getting more than two kg of PKE a day can suffer ill health. Cows in New Zealand and Australia have died after eating too much PKE.

PKE is very high in Mn so milk produced from it has about 47 ppm of Mn.

During the 2014 drought, some on a farm were also fed other toxic supplements and became so unwell, they became cast and had to be shot by a vet.

I measured their milk and it was atrocious, containing heavy metals of 20 mercury, 10 cadmium and 30 manganese.

Perfect milk from our clients applying LimeMagPlus which makes heavy metals less available and feeding Solmin is 0 mercury, 0 cadmium and 2 manganese and 80 iodine. Most NZ milk has

iodine so low that Chinese mothers expressed concern about it being so low in Formula.

Milk from cows fed Chinese magnesium chloride has approximately 25 mg/kg of mercury, 40 cadmium and 10 manganese and only 1 iodine. Measuring low levels of mg/kg is very difficult and not done by many. Very few can measure gluten at below 20 ppm, but at that level it is toxic to some of us. I'm Celiac.

Excess chloride in any form is very toxic. Salt is sodium chloride which is a safer form, but too much kills poultry and sheep that are very deficient in it, and then suddenly get ad-lib access to it.

Added value

Lewis Road Creamery, Box 766, Whakatane, has improved their town supply milk which they are retailing through some supermarkets. Lewis get more for it and can't keep up with the demand. It sells out in Hamilton within hours of arriving.

The Lewis Road Creamery chocolate organic milk is delicious. It sells off the supermarket shelves within hours, showing what adding value can do. Their full cream milk is the only milk that I'm not allergic to, possibly because they remove the permeate (part lactose), and use true organic milk. Some of Fonterra's organic milks contain heavy metals so can't be organic. I've told them.

From 1958 odd, I've asked NZ Dairy Co-op (I was a Gordonton NZCDC Factory committee person) and asked Frank Onion the NZ Dairy Board chairman, to add more value to our milk. In 1955 I worked on a farm supplying Tatura which had the highest payout, and still has, solely thanks to adding value. For years I've asked Fonterra to do the same, and to improve milk quality. They have told me to get DairyNZ to organise it. What I'm suggesting needs the farmers' buyer of milk (Fonterra) to lay down rules to improve milk quality. DairyNZ can't do so.

Organics

Some of the smaller European countries have a higher percentage, but their governments subsidise them, and the middlemen markups are not as high as ours. New Zealand's markups were discussed last year, but Fonterra and Federated Farmers didn't do comparisons with others, so the middlemen here thrive, while our producers starve.

In Austria (50,000 farms producing milk. 16% are organic.) and Belgium, organic milk production is increasing at double the rate here, but their farm sizes average only about 50 cows while ours in 380. Their colder winters make organic farming much harder because of supplementary feed growing and buying.

The best soils and earthworm numbers per spade spit that I have ever seen were in Austria and Switzerland. In 2005, both countries were farming 11% of their land organically. Ours would not be even 0.1%, and decreasing under Fonterra.

Those farming the GrazingInfo way are organic, except for a few unjustifiable insignificant rules such as not allowing feeding Solmin, Liquimin or fertilising with Selcote Ultra.

Research fodder beet in your area

From Stephen Finch & David Percival, Specialty Seeds.

Once again fodder beet has been a stand out crop with some very high yields reported. The average fodder beet crop is in the 25 to 27 tonne region/ha, and it's great to have seen high yielding (40 tonne +) crops out there as it sets a bench mark to aim for. Needless to say crops from 25 tonne + are producing dry matter at a very low cost per kg/DM. For more information see www.specseed.co.nz or email mail@specseed.co.nz or phone 0800 727 8873 or fax 0800 365 6663 or email at mail@specseed.co.nz.

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. See Calcium for the photo.

The pH varied up and down between 5.8 and 6.5 despite no more lime being applied. The pH in 1993 was 6, but calcium deficiency symptoms were apparent.

Measuring calcium in ryegrass and counting and checking the earthworms, are very accurate at deciding lime requirements. Read Soils > Earthworms. Measuring soil calcium and pH are not.

The pH in 1993 was 6, but calcium deficiency symptoms were apparent. The fertiliser consultant went by soil tests, so said no lime was necessary. In 1993 the consultant was changed and lime was applied with beneficial results. Remember that lime needs serpentine and boron to get results.

Saving Money

Don't waste your money on soil analyses. Read Winchmore Irrigation Research Station - Soil & Pasture Levels Compared in

Avoid losing your farm

Many dairy farmers are at the risk of losing their farms to banks, so NEVER get behind in payments to them. This is not easy when all income is used by rates, insurance, DairyNZ, repairs and maintenance, LimeMagPlus, fertilisers, staff and other costs. Most farmers are spending too much on phosphates and potash, and not enough lime. Staff are being dismissed, lime and fertilisers stopped.

Getting back to banks. Most are Australian owned so have no sympathy for New Zealanders so conned some into their Swap agreements between 2005 and 9, which allowed interest rates to increase, but not decrease even when all rates dropped. Some farmers lost their farms. One was interviewed on the Radio NZ farming program at 12.35pm last week. The banks are now being sued, but this is six years later.

High mortgages and borrowing have bankrupted more farmers than anything else, so apart from when buying your farm, and more land that will earn a profit, don't borrow. When borrowing to buy farms and land, if there are separate titles, use only enough required, so you have something to borrow against to allow for ACT Party interest rates of 24% in 1984, and other calamities like Fonterra that has borrowed billions, some at 7.5%.

Yesterday at our Probus meeting, the excellent Tatua Dairy Company manager gave us an excellent talk that all Fonterra managers should have been at. Tatua, for 100 years, has had a higher payout than others, except for one year when they expanded their factory. They produce 300 different top quality dairy products sold in a hundred countries.

Never buy shares. If you want to be a millionaire thanks to shares, start with two million dollars worth. At a two year commercial course in 1945/6 we were taught to never do anything that lost full control of your money. This meant never buy shares.

Now that GrazingInfo is free, and I seldom charge for consulting, a lot more are joining, so I'm getting further behind with answering emails. Most of the answers are already in GrazingInfo so read the chapters concerned. When an answer is not in GrazingInfo I add it.

Every day, do the greatest good to the greatest area, and never overstock cows, beef or sheep. Doing so is crazy. Why own a cow for a year at a cost of \$1,200 each (Use the spreadsheet called Dairy Cow Numbers for Max Profit) and not feed it fully, and at the same time underfeed the rest. Apologies for having to charge for the 70 spreadsheets, but we have to pay for the website and staff to file the chapters and spreadsheets and updated ones, and emails. We have not earned or taken a cent out of grazinginfo.com

I've warned about this before

Don't get behind with payments to your bank. Banks make money out of most property foreclosures, so love them. Some farmers are paying 9% interest and should not be paying more 6%, unless they are really bad risks. If yours is above 5%, shop around.

GrazingInfo Ltd

Vaughan Jones ONZM*, Dairying honours, M.Mkt.I

*Queen's honour for services to the farming industry.

International Agricultural Consultant, Journalist & Author.