

Newsletter 142 Lime, Fert, FE.

4 November 2016

Lime again: Unfortunately not many dairy farmers will be thinking about lime or fertiliser, but soon you should get the money that Spierings should have paid you when you earned it. Instead he gave their staff a 16% bonus. Co-operatives don't make profits, they should pay it to producers. Fonterra is not run like a co-op. Will it have to pay tax on their \$600 million profit they have made, at your expense! You should get it soon but pasture analysing now makes it a bit late to then buy and spread lime or fertiliser because rain to wash it in will be less. If calcium is 0.6% or lower, apply LimePlus (lime and deficient minerals), using a good lime, not a rough coarse one like Rorisons is now. All the lumps will not be available for 40 years (Ruakura figures). Read Lime. Rorisons added minerals, but unfortunately, not always. Graymont Aglime, 498 Old Te Kuiti Road, RD 6, Otorohanga 3976. Phone 09 222 4301 icook@graymont.com have a far superior lime with Mg. They told me that they are looking into mixing. Use Lime Nutrient Planner.xlsx spreadsheet in Book 'Excels'. If enough of you in their area of Waikato ask them for a mix price, it may speed them up doing it. The same applies to lime sources in the rest of the country. Ask for mixes.

Unfortunately some farmers trying to save money have wasted it on liquid and organic potions (some called fertilisers, but are not) or bought feeds which make no profit. Liquid potions have to have a preservative to stop it going bad. Applying it kills the soil bacteria which becomes a little nitrogen which gives a green colour to the grass. It happens only once because killing the soil bacteria ruins the soil. The value of the solids in liquid potions (they are not fertilisers) is very little. The 80% water I most is worth nothing. So whatever you pay, it is miles too expensive. They don't show analyses on a percent basis. Always ask for the names of users for three or four years. No one does.

Those who applied LimePlus for three or four years have not had to apply fertiliser for that time because the lime released the fixed P, neutralised the common acid soils, and the calcium grew more clover and grass (Read the many testimonials), so no N or P were needed, saving thousands of dollars. Those who applied enough lime (4 tonnes of Rorisons coarse lime pa, or 3 tonnes of McDonalds (Graymont now), or other well ground lime, grew clovers so have not had to apply N or P, and have not got Facial Eczema, without having to buy zinc, all saving a lot of money, and getting good results and profits on costs.

If your Ca is higher than 0.6%, apply Sechura reactive phosphate fertiliser, which is the best value P and works well. Use the Lime Nutrient Planner spreadsheet in Book 'Excels' and the Phosphate Nutrient Planner also in Book 'Excels'. If help is needed, contact me or another user.

The Asura company imported Sechura decades ago: The following farmers were very happy with Sechura when it was available. That is Us, Sylvia Bishop, David Webb, in 1994, all said their pastures had never been better. Later, John Wright, Gary Wilson, Bill Chynoweth, Craig Clausen, B Wilson, Lornie Estate, Malcolm Clark, Tony Ashford and more, all liked it.

The Asura company is honest and told buyers that there was no Co in NZ, so could not supply it, while two big fertiliser companies were not, and charged for cobalt at \$50/ha, but didn't include it. I discovered this and with Federated Farmers and the farm media, exposed it. The fertiliser companies had to compensate the farmers.

Asura Ltd now imports Sechura from Peru again and uses a very fine elemental 100% sulphur which helps make the Sechura P available and not leach like the sulphur from Superphosphate does, which leaches K and others with it.

After only two years of applying Sechura, most farmers found that their soils & pastures became much better & were more evenly grazed and the number of dry knobs decreased. For the same cost per hectare, Sechura has 28% more P and with the correct amount of natural sulphur, neither of which leach much. MAF after me telling them this, with the help of two Massey University trials, done for me, admitted that only 50% of the sulphur in Superphosphate is required and that the excess sulphur in it leaches, and takes other elements like expensive potassium (\$800/ tonne) with it. I read that India found this first, so I checked farms using Superphosphate against those using elemental reactive phosphate and found it was correct.

Almost no animal health problems occurred with Sechura and elemental reactive P, whereas copper, zinc and selenium all reduced for a few months after applying Superphosphate.

Many MAF national comparative P trials gave almost equal first year pasture yields at similar rates of Superphosphate applied, so equal dollars spent would have given even better results for Sechura, like mine did, because Sechura is cheaper per percentage of P.

In all MAF and my Sechura comparative P trials, Sechura beat all other P fertilisers.

All comparative trials on mine and my client's farms, lawns, etc., since 1955 were done on an equal costs basis. Others use an equal quantity basis, which is stupid, and shows how far some scientists are from farms where they are trying to produce export quality milk and make a living.

In June 2007 DairyNZ Scott research farm: Injected their cows with vitamin B12. Had they applied LimePlus at about 4 tonnes/a with Cobalt Sulphate (21% Co) at one kg/ha, it would have saved injecting and would have grown more clover, which would have produced more natural slow release nitrogen and given healthier cows, better quality pasture, and more of it - without the 'drug' urea. 'Drug', because apply it once and you have to repeat it, because it halves earthworm numbers, kills clovers, etc., so the remaining grass needs more artificial N. Read Nitrogen. DairyNZ won't promote this information because the fertiliser company gives them \$2 million, of your money, every year. DairyNZ pastures are poor and very low in clover as are more and more in the Waikato. DairyNZ had very few earthworms. They all had soil stuck to them, showing that Ca was extremely low. The photos in Soils > Earthworms explain it all. More and more farmers are having to inject with B12. We and our best clients don't have low Co in pastures or low B12 in animals.

When Co, and B12, are low, calves and lambs grow more slowly and need more worm drenching. Lambs don't grow as big and finish slowly, or not at all, increasing sheep farmer losses.

Garden: Lime and salt are under-used. Do a trial on your lawn (lime stops moss and acid loving weeds in lawns). Digging them in 30 cm deep for broadbeans and sweetcorn, increases their production. Read Maize. Buy a 25 kg bag of Graymont Aglime, from Farmlands for only \$5.00. One tonne in bulk contains \$18 worth of magnesium. Coarse salt in 25 kg bags is \$15.00. Spread at 10 kg per 100 sq metres. Salt is seldom needed close to the coast.

Facial Eczema: At only \$25/tonne, or \$19 from Graymont, Otorohanga, because it contains \$6 worth of Mg, and it does so much good on most farms that have ryegrass Ca levels of 0.6% or less, that it gives a profit many times its cost within a year, and in the second year eliminates Facial Eczema completely. It is an absolute disgrace that DairyNZ, LIC and vets and all those consulting for farmers, have not read Facial Eczema in www.grazinginfo.com to see details, and have not contacted farmers who have had no Facial Eczema ever, after liming. I did a survey and no www.grazinginfo.com members got Facial Eczema this year, while it has been a bad year for others.

Calves and lambs grow much more slowly if Cobalt is low and Alpacas can suffer from ryegrass staggers so their pasture should be monitored for Co annually by testing ryegrass.

1 kg of granulated cobalt per ha fixes it, but has to be spread with a spreader - lime or fertiliser.

Members can buy Granulated Co from a Farmlands store (80 in NZ) at about \$11/kg plus GST in 25kg bags. You could then give it to your lime spreader to sprinkle over the lime as it is loaded into their truck at the lime works or depot, or you can spread it over the lime in the truck or spreader when it arrives, and/or mix it with your loader, at one kg/ha.

Alpacas and llamas: suffer from endophyte-caused ryegrass staggers so their pasture should be monitored for Co annually by testing ryegrass. Endophytes cause it, so sow Bealey NEA2 which has ample of the safest endophyte to control insects. Alpacas and Llamas require higher levels of selenium and cobalt and lower levels of copper, than most animals.

From Poison: NZ Macrocarpa (Cupressus Macrocarpa) trees are toxic. Animals like the leaves after they have fallen and dried. Even a small amount can cause abortions and deaths. Fence it off, or get rid of it, and the leaves.



Best wishes, Vaughan Jones, GrazingInfo Ltd.