

#### LimeMag and trace elements

Many who applied 3,000 kg per hectare or more of LimeMag (lime and serpentine which is magnesium citrate), OrganiBOR and other deficient elements, this spring and on previous springs, and checked them months later with a spade, told me how delighted they were at more and healthier earthworms, more humus, improved soils, more clover and fewer weeds. Most needed and applied a second 3,000 kg about six months later and were even more pleased, and those who still needed a third 3,000 kg, could hardly believe the increased pasture growth after applying it. On calcium deficient farms I'm now recommending a first application of 4,000 kg per hectare. Read Calcium and glance through Beef, right to the last two photos. Photos of our two well limed weed-free farms and neighbours weed covered hungry farms are in Elements > Calcium. See its 51 benefits.

#### Mafia

When it comes to the use of lime and its synergisms, it is disgraceful that lime's 51 benefits are ignored by the Mafia - MAF, AgResearch, DairyNZ, LIC, major research establishments, agricultural universities, most fertiliser companies, some banks, and the consultants being paid \$12 a tonne for selling fertilisers.

I'm no fan of Australia, but they don't allow consultants to farmers or finance ones helping investors, to call themselves consultants if they receive a commission. This regulation is needed here.

#### Dispensers

Mineral dispensers with moving parts need repairs almost every year, so before your next repair, consider selling it at about half the new price and installing a Cook and Galloway, 5 Belfast Place, Hamilton 3242, New Zealand. Lloyd Alderwick <[lloyd@cookandgalloway.co.nz](mailto:lloyd@cookandgalloway.co.nz)>

It is only about \$220 plus pipe fittings of about \$100. Get valves with plastic centres, not steel which rusts. It has no moving parts. 500 cows or more will need two dispensers.

#### Organics

Let's start with a cheerful note from USA, that hopefully will come to NZ. I've been told that in USA, organic dairy farmers get paid twice the price of non-organic milk.

Organic farmers like talking about 'biology' in soils. Lime gets it going, while chemical fertilisers such as superphosphate, potash and urea by non-organic farmers slow, or reverse it. Chemical fertiliser companies and their consultant and scientists don't admit this.

In NZ there has been a public outcry that milk is too expensive, so the margins were investigated and found to be acceptable - but not agreed by me. Farmers get about 66 cents a litre for milk that retails at between \$1.50 and \$2. Organic dairy farmers get about 20% more, but margins on it are much higher.

#### Potato growers

If your soil is very fertile and previous potato crops have grown too many tops and not many tubers, apply less nitrogen and spread lawn clippings or other vegetation and dig it in to use up some of the nitrogen. If you have already planted yours when you read this, sprinkle lawn clippings over the soil surface and mix it in or when ridging it will get mixed in. We are now eating our first Heather potatoes. It is the best early, main and late potato variety I know of, tastes nice and is purple coloured.

For more, read Potatoes in Vegetable & Fruit Trees.

This election can be one to improve the farmers' lot.

[www.conservativeparty.co.nz](http://www.conservativeparty.co.nz) shows that it is the only one that will get rid of ETS which the two current parties agree with, because neither cares about farmers.

Read about Brian Dobbs, their agricultural spokes person. A fifth generation dairy farmer, who started with a small dairy farm in the Waikato and grew to a large South Island dairy farm which he still

has, and moved back to the Waikato to be with his family.

Dozens of people I've spoken with will vote for them.

Sorry about the politics, but farmers need honest political support now in many quarters, more than ever. They are being fleeced in many ways.

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