

Thank you to those who email us kind comments after receiving our newsletters, like this one -

"Every thing is going well on the farm at the moment. Please keep writing the newsletters. They are about the only thing I read at the moment that relates to what is happening on our farm."

PASTURE ANALYSES

Some have not been sending enough ryegrass to do all the tests needed by Hill Laboratory. Please send at least 200 grams, which is a large, heaped, double handful from about 30 takes across the paddock, away from high fertility areas. Testing for aluminium is a separate test which needs a bit more grass.

A subscriber asked why I suggest testing for aluminium. Aluminium toxicity has lost many farmers a lot of money because it causes more ryegrass pulling than any other factor, but Black Beetle and previous soil pests are blamed. Light volcanic soils and others with high aluminium levels suffer more very costly ryegrass pulling than soils with lower aluminium levels. Light volcanic soils can have a pH of 6.1 and a low ryegrass calcium level of 0.5% instead of 0.8%. Walton, central Waikato area, has suffered this for 50 years that I know of, i.e., hard pans, lack of clover, lack of earthworms, low boron, low magnesium, poor pasture growth and worst of all, ryegrass pulling because they don't apply lime-plus. Pulling occurred for so long that most farmers don't even notice the small pulled ryegrass plants, which, if they do, they think is standard.

I repeatedly ask farmers if ryegrass pulling is a problem, and they say, "No." I then get down and show them that they often have close to 20 per square metre. Some of it is because pasture has been sown too thickly (more than 25 kg of mix per hectare), which I proved and wrote about in 1960. DairyNZ showed it in 2011.

I see ryegrass pulling in photos some are now sending me because of distance or I don't have time to visit them.

Because the pH is OK according to the establishment, but not according to me, farmers then don't solve the problem with lime-plus. My son-in-law and daughter farmed milking goats near Walton three decades ago, as did many friends, and I had a Walton consulting group about the same time.

Boron is also low there. I got Ruakura to do a boron trial which they wrongly said gave no response!!! Read Elements > Boron.

Remember that what you see is better than any test figures, so if your soil is soft and crumbly with no hardpan, then aluminium is not likely to be a problem, so don't order it. For pasture going to Hill Lab, then write as done by Vaughan Jones, but no aluminium.

However, if most pasture levels are optimum as per the spreadsheet Pasture Tissue Analysis, but you have ample earthworms and hard soils, especially a hard pan down about 10 to 15 cm, you are likely to have excess aluminium that lime-plus (lime with its synergisms, read Elements > Calcium).

In the last 3.5 years I've done hundreds of lime-plus recommendations and done only three P fertiliser (Gafsa) ones, because the pasture P figures showed locked P, and low Ca and B and low Co all because of low Ca, and low selenium, partly because of low Ca. All have had good responses, but not all deficient elements will increase to optimum after only one application. It took Fernyhoughs three applications totalling eight tonnes per hectare to get the photo in Elements > Calcium.

One farmer who had very deficient soils and felt that magnesium had not risen enough. Instead of reading Elements > Magnesium, he applied the much more costly (in the North Island) dolomite, which MAF 60 years ago, and two of my trials described in Magnesium, showed that the same cost serpentine achieved better results.

NO SPRAYING

Please don't spray your new pastures for weeds. I never have, and always had the best pastures in the area because we fed them fully with lime-plus and proper fertilisers. If weed seedlings are thick, apply more lime-plus, and/or if looking yellow apply the best N (Ammo or a better liquid one if there is - do comparative trials) as soon as yellowing starts, and again as yellowing starts about six weeks later, until the clovers are working.

FIELDAYS

NZ Agricultural Fieldays 13 to 16 June at Mystery Creek near Hamilton. See Free Items or Events for accommodation and other details.

FERTILISERS

There are now many products sold as fertilisers, which in the true sense of the word, are not.

Their analyses show that they are not fertilisers and will not grow more pasture than those that get the most deficient minerals, based on pasture analyses.

As a consultant I make a point of checking all the products that I can. Three Probitas users I visited showed no benefits, and my visit to Ewan Campbell's Waihi farm showed hard soils and sick earthworms, and my trials showed that it was not worth the cost of about \$400 a tonne, by a long way. Its main content is serpentine worth about \$220 a tonne. I've used serpentine every year on all our farms and sections so got no financial benefit from Probitas, but did slightly on the park next to our home which has not had anything since taken out of farming in 1970.

The Dairyman July 2009 News

Probitas guilty of misleading public

A FERTILISER sold under the brand name Probitas did not offer the benefits claimed. The company, Probitas Ltd, has been fined \$200,000 and man who sold it \$60,000, in the Tauranga District Court for misleading the public. They have also been ordered to pay \$12,499 in costs.

Ewan Campbell was found guilty of five charges and Probitas Ltd of 11 charges of breaching the Fair Trading Act by misrepresenting the effectiveness of Probitas. The representations were made in brochures, on a promotional CD and in person.

The Commission is now considering civil action to recover customers' losses.

Campbell, a farmer from Waihi, formulated and sold the Probitas fertiliser nationwide. Probitas comprises natural ingredients, including sea clays, soft shell-based lime, paramagnetic rock and iron sand. Farmers and horticulturists paid \$300 - \$350/tonne for Probitas, which, Campbell told them, would activate the electrical and magnetic processes in the soil.

An expert witness said there was no scientific basis supporting the way Probitas was supposed to work.

Commerce Commission chairwoman Paula Rebstock said the fertiliser industry is a vital part of the New Zealand economy, with farmers spending \$1 billion annually.

Fertiliser is generally the most expensive single item on a farmer's budget, costing most between \$20,000-\$40,000 yearly.

"It is crucial that farmers can trust the claims made about fertiliser. It is a major cost in their business, and they need to know what they are getting what they are promised," Ms Rebstock said.

She said that because Probitas does not work as a fertiliser, farmers using it will have lost productivity.

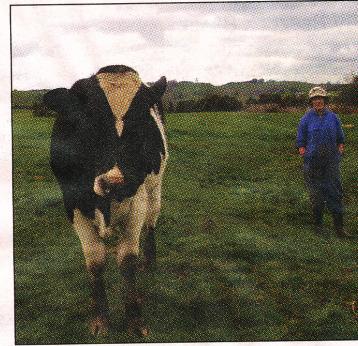
"The Commission's experts estimate that this productivity loss would have been up to 5% in the first year, and the effects will compound over future years," said Ms Rebstock.

"Farmers will not be able to put their losses right by switching fertilisers. They will need to apply more fertiliser than usual to counteract the effects of using Probitas."

The use of Probitas is estimated to have cost the national farming industry \$5 million in lost productivity in the first year of use alone.

Ms Rebstock said the claims made about Probitas were hard for ordinary farmers to assess.

"Mr Campbell used scientific language and gave customers a CD packed with complicated explanations of how Probitas was supposed to work," said Ms Rebstock.



Farmers may have lost productivity.

"It is not reasonable to expect all farmers to have the expertise to assess these claims themselves, so it is crucial that representations of this nature are accurate and can be substantiated."

In his judgement, Judge J. R. Callander concluded: "While no farmer actually complained of deception, the representations and conduct were clearly deceptive and misleading. The real science shows that farmers were clearly taken in and misinformed by the representations and this, ultimately, would have been to their detriment."

Agrisentials is now being looked into by the Commerce Commission for selling Rok Solid as a fertiliser. I've seen farms using it and have figures that are 600 kg of MS per hectare per annum for three years in a row, from users who then contacted me. It is about \$400 per tonne for contents worth about \$60.

While on costs, liquid seaweed and fish products such as Maxicrop, Response, etc., cost about \$3,000 a tonne for the solids, which is what you'll be buying, because the rest is water.

An interesting point about Rok Solid is that farmers often ask them where the 'Rok' comes from and tell me, if up north, they answer, "From down south". If down south, they answer, "From up North"!

I don't plan to buy and check any because six users have lost thousands of dollars trying it, each for three years. Their milk production and pasture analyses reveal that it is useless.

When sales people talk about the "Paramagnetic energy level stimulating the multiplication of the soil biology," suspect a lack of useful facts.

If the soil lacks the main basic elements, so is hard and/or has a hard pan without earthworms, its

biology (whatever that means) will not exist to be stimulated.

Remember that there are people galore after your money, from bank managers to investors and sales people, with fake fertiliser companies leading, followed by the fertiliser companies and consultants who ignore lime and its synergisms which sets soils up for the other essential elements.

Waikato Times of 14 May 2012

A company selling ground volcanic rock as fertiliser is being investigated by the Commerce Commission under the Fair Trading Act.

Agrisentials, owned by former Tauranga vegetable grower John Morris, sells its Rok Solid fertiliser for \$400 a tonne to farmers throughout New Zealand.

Its main ingredient is ground basalt rock to which is added fish, seaweed and other sources of phosphate, potassium, selenium, cobalt and boron.

Not any rock will do, according to Morris. "Before we mine it we analyse the paramagnetic energy level. This stimulates the multiplication of the soil biology."

Commerce Commission spokeswoman Allanah Kalafatelis said an investigation was started earlier this year after a complaint was received from a user of the fertiliser.

"We don't expect it to be a short investigation because of the science involved. There's a small number of experts we can go to," she said.

Morris said the commission had written to him in January, saying it was following up comments about the fertiliser made in a newspaper article.

He had asked who had complained but the commission would not give any names.

"They told me it was not one of the two big fertiliser companies. I think it was probably my old friend Doug Edmeades."

Edmeades, a Waikato soil scientist who has publicly accused Agrisentials of using "scare tactics" to promote its products, said he was not the complainant and was not involved in the investigation.

He has said in a newsletter to his clients that because Rok Solid's chief component was silica it was unlikely to have any effect on pastoral soils. He put its value, after allowing for the added nutrients, at \$60 a tonne, assuming they are plant-available.

Morris said he started Agrisentials 18 years ago after finding his conventionally fertilised plants were not growing to their potential. "I looked for where the best soils were on the planet and found they were where the ice glaciers had rubbed the rock, leaving metres of dust behind.

"I felt I couldn't go wrong doing what Mother Nature had done for millions of years."

His website has a report from Northland soil scientist Andreas Kumann on soil tests from dairy farms using Rok Solid.

The site also features botanist David Bellamy talking about farmers who are returning to the "essentials" of agriculture.

Morris said he felt confident the Commerce Commission would find he was not doing anything wrong.

DAIRY FARMERS, INCREASE YOUR PROFIT AND ENJOY YOUR FARMING

If all grazing dairy farmers reduced their costs by milking the optimum number of cows, using the 'Dairy cow numbers for maximum profit' Excel spreadsheet to calculate the exact numbers to milk, so bought less feed and less urea, total production would decrease, but profits would increase. Fonterra's payout would then increase, because they would not have surplus milk that reduces the auction prices and the payout to all farmers.

Smith brothers in Vancouver Island, Canada, paid for me to go to their 600 cow dairy farm with a 12 a side herringbone (swing over) because they were going bankrupt and Brad Cowan in USA, who I had helped recommended me. They had pasture enough for 300, so had to buy enough for the other 300, that they sold, and reduced their mortgage and reduced one staff member. Their profit returned and they farmed happily thereafter.

There are thousands in New Zealand in the same boat, i.e., milking too many cows, buying too much expensive feed, so losing money. The coming lower milk payout will increase the cost problem of buying milk production.

It is a pity that LIC, DairyNZ, etc., are not honest with dairy farmers and use the Ruakura figures

from 1991 and mine from 1989.

Ruakura figures in October 1991 stated that if most stocking rates were decreased, production per cow would increase by even greater amounts than those I have used in the spreadsheet called, "Dairy cow numbers for max profit kg." This year (at last) Lincoln has said the same.

You should all be using the spreadsheet now to work out how many cows to milk next season for maximum profit. Getting it right (90% are now overstocked) could earn you up to \$10,000 more per hundred cows, reduce pugging and weeds, and make yours and your family's life more pleasant.

Vaughan Jones
GrazingInfo Ltd

Newsletter 68

Don't 'save as' in the A1 email or it attaches it to the email.

Humate from DairyNZ

Q. "Do humates improve soil organic matter (OM)?

A. "Soils contain between 60 tonnes (soils in the McKenzie basin) to 350 tonnes (volcanic ash soils in Taranaki and peat soils in Waikato) of organic matter per hectare, with most dairy farms having around 200~300 tonnes OM/ha.

"If say 60 kg/ha of humate was applied, this would add only 0.2~0.3% organic matter to the soil and therefore is unlikely to have any effect. The claim that they stimulate soil microbes is very unlikely, given how little is applied."

I agree. The real proof is in my facts of two Walton farms where humate applied pastures done by the agent, were noticeably much worse. One had weeds increase in one year from zero to dreadful. The other reduced clover and bare patches increased in the pasture.

The production figures of two other subscribers, one north of here and one in Taranaki, who had used Humate for years were 600 kg of milk solids per hectare.

Read Testimonials, New Zealand for more.

No phosphate or potash fertilisers were applied over the three years because they were already too high and the lime-plus helped balance them.

Many other dairy farmers have done the same, but with less striking figures.

Fonterra doesn't know this, so they keep asking for "more milk" wanting to be the biggest in the world in which NZ produces only 2%! LIC consultants encourage dairy farmers to milk more cows so that they can sell more herd testing and more semen to make more profit and buy more companies, rather than reduce farmer costs. These are despite Ruakura, in October 1991, writing, "Our figures show that if cow stocking rate is decreased, production per cow will increase." Their figures were higher than the conservative ones I use in 'Dairy cow numbers for maximum profit' spreadsheet written in 1990. It has saved those who use it, tens of thousands of dollars. Now is the time to reduce cow numbers because you have the production figures to use and reducing cow numbers now saves wintering them.

Lincoln University has recently published information to show that fewer cows can give more profit, because the improved genetics are able to work, and produce more milk per cow, which they can't if not correctly fed. See the 'Grazing 40% Rule' spreadsheet.

Keep up your good work and tell others to join GrazingInfo. If they do, and see the light to reduce cow numbers, they'll profit more, so will Fonterra and all dairy farmers and New Zealand.

Item	Comp	Hg	Cd	Mn	A
Water Auckland Mt Wellington filtered Amway E-spring	70	2	0	0	
Water Auckland Mt Wellington tap	10	10	10	15	
Water Auckland The Gardens suburb	20	10	5		
Water Hamilton filtered	50				
Water Hamilton filtered & boiled	65				
Water Hamilton tap Ellerslie Ave	5	25			
Water Hamilton tap Te Rapa by Rhodes	10	15	20		
Water Kaiapoi NZ Natural Spring	80	0	0	0	

David Wynne-Finch of Wales replied to my questions about Aber seeds -

The seed guy who we trust the most says there is 'Aber good and Aber not so good'. Recently they have been focusing on tetraploids and high sugar grasses that tend to not last more than 4 or 5 years. They are the result of Government money trying to explore ways of combating methane!!

Our UK mixes are predominantly, diploid late heading Aber varieties with a bit of mid heading tetraploid stuff. Aberavon, Aberstar, Aberdare are very good, we put some continental European varieties in for hardiness. Clovers are the likes of Aberdai, Aberpearl, Abervantage and Crusader. We put in 1kg of Timothy seed in the mix. People in the drier parts are having good success with Cocksfoots developed in France, the grazing management has to be spot on but where it is slightly drier a focus on DM yield is important and they milk fine off it. Kiwis are obsessed with PRG but I think there is a place for other types, Fescue, Timothy, Cocksfoot especially if it is drier.

We have been trying Matrix and Bealey NEA2 from NZ and have found that in the right place (i.e., mild climate) they can be useful. Winter hardiness is an issue with NZ varieties in the UK.

I am with you on not understanding what Fonterra is trying to achieve overseas by getting involved with production in various countries.

Thanks David, Nuffield Scholar.

Generally the Aber ryegrasses, developed in their colder climates than NZ's, don't grow as much in winter as Bealey NEA2 does.

The following has gone to the editor, NZ Herald, Auckland.

Does Fonterra know something about the reasons for pouring 500 million dollars into China, USA, Australia and South America, that we don't know? Teaching them low-cost farming, can't be one.

As an International Agricultural Consultant who has helped 500 farmers in many countries since 1960, and addressed thousands at seminars, Fonterra's actions make no sense to me or to any of those with whom I've communicated.

Fonterra increased the dairy share cost from \$1, which it had been for ages, to \$6 which was too high, hence its drop to about \$4.50, which was stealing five million dollars of their suppliers' money.

The high share figure has caused farmers to tell sharemilkers to dry off cows in autumn to save the owners having to buy more shares for an overall loss.

What has Fonterra got to show in payout for its use of borrowed millions from suppliers and others?

Fonterra's mistakes include buying a company in Australia and losing suppliers who did not want to supply New Zealanders, and their going into partnership with Chinese and not monitoring quality.

Fonterra boasts about high payouts. It was \$14 equivalent in 1955 when the average herd size was 60 giving high profits.

Vaughan Jones

The high share value and the sill system they use means that if we get a bad season 10% lower than the average one in 2010/11, Fonterra will have to find 20% of

A New Zealand seed breeder emailed me, "We have found, generally (as things vary) that in difficult situations with clover root weevil now in the mix of pests, that all the large leaved clovers (Kopu and Kotare), while they are potentially higher yielding, struggle to persist long term.

We have been sowing a 50:50 mix for dairying of Kotare & Weka clovers. Weka is more medium leaved, very stoloniferous, spreads very strongly, and has got good CRW tolerance. Weka has persisted very well under grazing in Waikato in our trials.

Would say typically that with Kotare:Weka mix, Kotare would produce the higher clover yields for a year or two, but over time the Weka gets stronger & predominates.

For selenium only, take three Brazil organic nuts a day (no more) and take vitamin E, or Good Health Premium tablets from some chemists and some health shops. They recommend one a day, but at that, our selenium levels went too high, so we now take one only on odd days. Its figures are 95-0-0.

Most people may need one a day, but we fertilise with Selcote Ultra (if organic, their selenium chips leach, so need applying at 0.25 kg per hectare four times a year), so the ten different vegetables we grow and preserve may give us enough.

Lime and potatoes and sweet corn

"It's a growth strategy both volume and value, volume talks about staying relevant and value talks about bringing maximum returns for our farmers."

On the agenda

More than 100 projects including:

- * Strong push on fast-growing emerging markets.
- * Optimising the New Zealand milk business.
- * Building integrated milk pools overseas.
- * Growing volumes of higher value consumer branded and out-of-home nutrition.
- * Tighter focus on nutrition needs of mothers, babies and ageing populations.

I was checking to see who had not applied lime and you were one. Uneven pasture and lack of clover, show it is needed. Lime-plus at three tonnes per hectare grows four times more pasture of better quality than artificial nitrogen.

more moist

The long hair on the top of this cow's neck shows low cobalt which means that she is low in Vit B12. The pasture analysis had a lot of soil in it so the cobalt figure was higher than actual. Animals are the most accurate gauge and what decisions should be made on.

<http://www.specseed.co.nz/grasses.asp>

A subscriber who applied lime-plus emailed me - "Do you think the extra lime has caused the worms to reproduce?"

No other mineral increases earthworm numbers as much as lime-plus does.

Dr Paul Dettloff, consultant vet for more than 1400 dairies in the USA, stresses that the first veterinary dollar spent should be on calcium for the soil – remineralisation of soils is crucial for better quality pastures and better animal health and production. In the meantime, we need

I applied Mg Oxide. If he'd read Magnesium he would not have done that.

These figures show what is in the body of an orchardist, who became very unwell for a long time.

Soil in pasture analyses holes in HillLab plastic bags.

B stops milk fever

oversow Tonic or better plantain. Chicory doesn't grow in winter.

Google for ‘unsold cars’ and you’ll see thousands stored. Prices didn’t change much like milk did. The negative people will say that milk products can’t be stored. They were on refrigerated boats a few decades ago when there were surpluses.

Fonterra again

Fonterra’s only jobs are to process milk into the best and most profitable added-value products which are much more refined than bulk milk powder and bulk cheese, and to market them at the best prices. They are doing neither satisfactorily, but are more interested in empire building, playing monopoly and teaching our main competitors low-cost dairying in China and South America.

Fonterra’s weak marketing is only partly to blame for continuing the decrease in milk payout. Over-production by farmers causing surpluses, reduces prices, creating losses to all, especially to cows fed on bought feed, or milking too many cows.

Enter your dairy farm figures into the spreadsheet called ‘Dairy cow numbers for max profit kg’. It will take five minutes and if you apply it, it could make most of you tens of thousands of dollars better off every year, and a much happier farmer, with happier, better fed cows, less pasture damage, less pollution, and an easier life. If all New Zealand dairy farmers used it, production would drop a little (5% will help), and the payout would increase. Fernyhough’s increased by \$60,000 a year with a payout of only \$4.50. At \$6 payout the extra profit would have been \$90,000, just by reducing cow numbers from 380 to 330. This doesn’t apply to under-stocked farms. Enter yours to see. Now is the time to do it, before culling and before carrying surplus over winter.

Over-production of milk, which the high cow numbers per hectare and high supplement feeders, accentuate, for little or no profit to themselves, also keeps milk prices down, so is a double whammy affecting all dairy farmers and the country. It takes only a 5% surplus to reduce prices, and a 5% shortage to increase prices of all products (not just dairy) said Vaughan Jones M. Mkt. I, in 1984 as Gallagher Group Marketing Director, and chairman of Waikato Marketers, when addressing members. The two most successful dairy suppliers in New Zealand, i.e., Tatua Co-Operative Dairy Co Ltd, and the Dairy Goat Co-operative (N.Z.) Ltd.

Apologies for the boast.

The NZ Goat Co-op is doing what the Tatua Co-Operative Dairy Co Ltd

Auctioning milk is allowing the buyer to decide the price, which is not marketing.

A \$100 million Waimate dairy factory owned by Russian investors, and now being eyed by Chinese interests, will keep processing despite the Russians' parent company collapsing, an adviser says.

Nutrinvestholding, the parent company of Russian baby-food producer Nutritek, was declared bankrupt late last month by the Commercial Court in Moscow.

Be careful about expanding too quickly because -

1. The milk payout is more unstable than it has ever been. Stability was the Dairy Boards second aim, after a high payout. Neither are of concern to Fonterra.

2. Banks are more ruthless and stupid than ever. Their over-lending (up to 105%) was a cause of New Zealand's downturn, and some are now lending 95%. Crazy, mean foreclosures like Crafar's has cost the bank millions of dollars.

3. I could go on, but read the following. It is frightening, and not New Zealand.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/6792168/Receivership-like-home-invasion>

Statistics New Zealand shows that 53,200 went to Australia last year and 13,800 moved here from Australia. There were also net gains of migrants from most other countries, led by the United Kingdom (5,500), India (5,200), and China (5,000).

Many farmers going there have done well, while some townies have regretted and had difficulty selling and returning, especially from Perth where mine closures have caused empty houses galore.

Many going to Australia don't know that their top income tax rate is 45% while ours is 30%. Until naturalised, tax is much higher. Their capital gains tax is the same in the first year and then at half the income tax rate, while ours is zero.

Over the years I've protected farmers from Bell-Booth Maxicrop (1990) and their dairy cow minerals containing manganese (2011), also from Response, Probitas, Humate, Rok and Fine Lime at 200 kg per hectare at the cost of 2,000 kg per hectare of lime with serpentine and trace elements. It was spread by helicopter which cost more than the lime would have. Helicopter spread products on flat land have been done for 25 years and lost farmers' a lot of money, and after three or four years that see how unproductive they and search for something better.

New Plymouth's Emeny helicopters applied DAP slurry three times a year. After a few years of use for deteriorating pastures and soils, farmers stopped buying it.

A DAP and potassium liquid mix killed cows.

There are more, and even some scientists who need to be protected from themselves and their colleagues. As in USA when I was consulting there for US\$1,000 a day, university scientists told me that they could prove anything for \$100,000.

Some New Zealand ex Ruakura scientists are now working for fertiliser and lime companies, so their advice is biased and useless. Doug Edmeades wrote that no soils in New Zealand need lime, and Ants Roberts wrote that no soils in New Zealand need trace elements. Every farmer knows they are wrong, but some pay them for advice. Most farmers know not to. I'm recording it here so that subscribers who had not read it, now know.

Farmers should be able to make their own decisions on accurate information from research. By accurate I means trials done on an equal cost basis and open to inspection by farmers.

Ruakura used to have plots of most ryegrasses that farmers could inspect and decide on. They don't now. When a Ruakura scientist proudly showed me around the metre square plots in the early 1980s, the fertiliser had been spread by hand so unevenly, that the trials were useless. The scientist was embarrassed. The Labour Party's Rogernomics and stupid ACT policies ruined New Zealand's agricultural research by reducing funding so that scientists had to find sponsors, so ours became like the USA one referred to above. A Ruakura one wrote that

In the 1990s Ruakura, LIC and MAF rubbish summer forage crops. An LIC consultant, who with her husband, were excellent dairy farmers, was reprimanded for recommending summer crops and for doing pasture analyses, so resigned. To convince them about Olsen P's uselessness, she got some completely raw peat tested. It was 60, which is very high. Why does low fertility peat have high readings? Because analyses are done by drying, measuring and weighing. Raw peat is very light, so a little mineral gives a high percentage. Many peat farmers have suffered high costs of fertilising based on soil analyses. Read Elements > Phosphorus and Soils > Peat, for more honest information.

Ruakura's bases for being against summer cropping was a crop of turnips yielding about 5,000 kg per hectare, which is less than half what good farmers get. I have a photo of it with the Ruakura buildings in the background. Cultivation was by rotary hoeing instead of chisel ploughing, enough lime had not been applied and seeding was too thick. Drainage was poor.

The dry summers until this one, made the crops essential to keep cows milking, so the establishment stopped rubbishing summer forage crops.

Apple Mac users

If you are a fortunate iMac user, drag the Excel spreadsheets over the Mac Numbers and Excel will be converted to the Numbers spreadsheet. Dragging Word documents over Pages converts them, into the much easier to use Mac software.

Investing

New pasture

Best Timothy 250. 0.25

Lime and NEA2s cause overgrazing and weeds eaten.

Not only farming

Clovers

Subscribers, how have you found Kopu large leafed white clover? Ours has been very disappointing in that for the first two years it grew well and after four years there is not one single Kopu clover plant in our garden trials despite it never have been grazed. Half was cut every two weeks and half every month. The two week cutting grew more pasture than the monthly.

Tahora (the best ever NZ white clover) sown with the Kopu is thriving and has spread a metre each way in our garden.

The NZ government pasture plant breeders have had more failures such as AR37, Matua prairie grass, ryegrasses, compared with commercial companies and the new UK and Spanish ones, than successes.

Maize

Those in the northern hemisphere who grow maize (corn in North America) should be aware that the world is cooling, so our spring was later and cooler, which maize doesn't like, so was slower to take off in spring. Our later sown did better and passed the earlier sown.

Still having downloading problems

You may not have upgraded your Adobe Acrobat.

I've been told by a computer wizard that some routers and broadband modems need frequent restarting, so try turning yours off each night and on again in the morning as a routine and see if your internet connections and speeds improve. Some computer programs (email and internet ones) need to be quit every day or two to keep them working well. Restarting the computer or turning it off and on again doesn't help. The programs have to be turned off or quit and started again.

I still get a message that file hasn't downloaded, but have found that they have, I just have to search for the files on my computer. Yes my broadband speed is very slow, so that is probably the main issue. 1.57 Mbps download, 0.60 Mbps upload, that's rural broadband for ya! At least I can access the files, which is the main thing. Thank you for your time, and keep up the good work you are doing. It's much appreciated.

Kind Regards

Daniel McInnes

Northland

The Vegetable and Fruit Trees PDF has been added to and the Rutgers conventional versus organic vegetable analyses in it has been updated. Animal farmers should take note of this because excess N, P and K do the same to animal feed. Any excess can adversely affect others, and so animal health.

Ryegrass in particular can't reach it because of aluminium stopping their roots going down. See Aluminium. The aluminium filled soil sits there creating what farmers and scientists (who should know better) call a hard pan, which they blame on pugging, animals, tractors, dry weather, and anything else, and causing ryegrass pulling, which is partly true, that is if they don't blame insects.

Lime-plus fixes it, and makes the soil more moist.

Reserve Bank confirms OCR at record low

Tichinin seminar delete her emailing

We and successful business people use two banks and move funds occasionally so that both can see that you have two. This makes negotiating more successful without threatening, which is not nice or good to and is not conducive to good bank manager relationships.

There are low analyses items such as Roks and Humates (they are not fertilisers) with ppm and pbm levels rather than %. Before spending a cent on any of the Rok soils, get an analysis, then you won't buy it. I say soils because some soils have even higher levels of some items.

The long hair on the top of this cow's neck shows low cobalt which means that she is low in Vit B12, which is unhealthy. The October pasture analysis had a lot of soil in it so the cobalt figure was higher than actual. Animals are the most accurate gauge and on what decisions should be based.

The 1950s milk solids payout was about NZ\$14 per kg of MS equivalent, double the current payout. Costs were a fraction of today's. The average herd size was 60 cows which was profitable. In the 1960s 100 cows was the average herd size and could put three children through private boarding school. Today 500 cows couldn't do it.

New Zealand's strong entrepreneurship amongst farmers helped increase land prices and interest rates to the highest in the western world, which has increased overseas investments in our banks where investors can earn twice as much as in some countries.

Both our governments are to blame for breaking up the NZ Dairy Board cooperative, which was the envy of other dairy marketers world-wide, and for allowing Labour's Act Rogernomic policies to wipe business rules such as the 20% deposit required before borrowing.

Rogernomics was a failed American policy of 'Market Forces' and 'Free Enterprise' running loose. Had it not been allowed, New Zealand would not have had the recent and still affecting New Zealand downturn.

dozens of finance companies failed taking all the funds of close to a hundred thousand investors. Every time one goes, I wonder where the money went, and I wonder what the real effect on our dollar strength is of so much money disappearing.

Sports have to have rules and umpires, so businesses need them even more so.

Banks, then with so much overseas money coming in, and SCF which was seen as a safe

investment, were wrong in lending 100% and more on town properties.

If borrowers can't save 20% of borrowings, how can they pay our high interest rates?

Grazing new pastures

The most important thing in dairying on grazing only is getting the number of cows correct.

Farmers, sharemilkers, farms & the country profit from correct cow numbers per farm.

Are you profiting from it?

Spring is the critical time to be able to feed cows fully for high production and conception.

Enter your figures into the GrazingInfo invented and designed spreadsheet called "Dairy cow numbers for max profit".

If webmaster puts double lines between paragraphs, delete one line. See newsletter 57.

Don't enter a date. It does so.

Please read the updated Weeds chapter, page 16, about Bristle grass taking over farms without some owners realising.

Those of you who have limed your whole farm, or part of it, or done trials, please check the thatch at the base of the limed areas against the non-limed areas which is where the facial eczema spores breed, and other moulds and bacteria, and measure the facial eczema spores and please let me know how they compare.

Shelter & Stream cover

See this chapter on Cabbage Trees and indigenous grasses and plants.

http://icm.landcareresearch.co.nz/knowledgebase/publications/public/Optimized%20Ecolsoc_sept_2005.pdf

The examples shown add to the scenery without the problems that some exotic plantings can cause. The native grasses reduce the requirement for Glyphosate spraying, which is a colossal benefit. Using it near drains and waterways is banned in Australia because it is increasing in their underground water, despite dishonest claims of Roundup's safety by producers, those selling it and some companies that promote No-tillage products.

Some countries have banned Roundup completely.

The following are from reports I've sent to dozens of clients.

Six monthly pasture analysing followed by correct liming are highly beneficial and profitable.

If your cows are not lying down within three hours of milking and being in the paddock. There is some thing wrong, such as low selenium, unpalatable pasture or who know what, but there is something wrong.

Those who say that lime is slow to work (implying years), are wrong when it comes to Rorison's lime, which is softer, and when applied with lime's synergisms (deficient elements which can include serpentine, OrganiBOR (Slow release chip boron.). See Elements > Boron.) and others which combine to make the soil healthier. All help make lime act faster and more completely. I and others have seen growth responses after two weeks of it being washed in, which is faster than urea that some farmers pour on for years and after it lowering organic matter levels suffer reduced responses. All my clients have been surprised at how fast earthworms increase, thatch reduces, and how pastures don't dry out and grow more clover, only a few months after applying the above.

Applying lime and deficient elements then grow more pasture, so use up more of all elements. 17,000 kg of pasture DM per hectare use up 68 kg of P, minus what is returned later in animal manure.

Pasture analysing shows what happens in soils much faster and more thoroughly than soils tests. Our new neighbour works for Hill Lab and told me how soil tests vary, and gave the reasons, both of which I knew. A person applying to help me told me that he had divided a soil sample in two and got them analysed for quite different results. An American divided one sample into 6 and sent them to 6 labs there and got quite different results. Some USA laboratories make fertiliser recommendations, which I believe is useless, without knowing the farm, its history and use (dry, wet, dairy, beef, etc.). Identical soil (one sample) to six labs got six totally different fertiliser recommendations.

Wet soils can get high (5 m-) in molybdenum, which causes no problems. It can halve when dry.

The improving of your farm is not going anywhere near fast enough, simply because you are not doing all that I suggest, and often too late.

For GrazingInfo

New Zealand farmers get paid from the overseas exchange they earn and then parasites try to get it off them.

A major problem I have is that the majority of consultants like to keep farmers in the dark so that they can keep control and keep clients.

Then there are some who rely on selling things to farmers and some consultants in NZ who get \$12 per tonne from commissions from fertiliser sales retailing at \$600 per tonne, but nothing from lime companies because lime costs only \$14 to \$26 a tonne at the quarries.

One ex so-called soil consultant has written that agricultural lime is not necessary anywhere in New Zealand. What incredible ignorance. Applying lime on many soil types has increased pasture tissue P levels for two years and saved money doing so.

When people make obviously wrong statements, you should beware of using their advice and look for reasons for such statements. In this case it could be because he receives commission of fertiliser he recommends, so want farmers to spend all the discretionary funds on fertiliser so he gets commission.

November www.country-wide.co.nz/ revealed a lot about Commando AR37.

Concern has been raised over the severe ryegrass staggers from AR37 which was not mentioned in its promotion. I am testing Alto AR37. It grows to uneaten to about 20 cm high while right next to it, Bealey NEA2 is grazed to the ground, exactly the same as has occurred with Commando AR37 and Bealey NEA2 in the Gordonton trials 15 minutes NE of Hamilton.

Commando's severe ryegrass staggers was apparently not mentioned in promotional material, which can be very serious for horse and camelid owners.

I would have thought that Grasslands would have learned and been more careful after their Matua Prairie grass failure 25 year ago. It cost us many hundreds of dollars sowing it when grassing 100 ha after the previous owner had grown maize. We had no Matua left after two years. It is still promoted here and overseas without mentioning its short life, so plenty is sold, but in USA its short life gives NZ pasture seeds a bad name.

I'm now paying two editors so I can spend more time writing articles and answering email questions.

Most is easily understood, not in technical terminology that one would need a medical degree to decipher.

Remember that the corrected payout 60 years ago was \$14, based on cows fetching \$20 and today \$2,000 (ten times up), with farm machinery up by more. An even better comparison for dairy farmers is that we bought a three bedroom Lockwood house in 1958 out of income from 60 cows, which was the average herd size then. Today the average is 360 cows, but a thousand cows could not buy the equivalent. In 1962, milking 160 cows we bought a Keith Hay two bedroom house for a 29% sharemilker - out of income, without borrowing.

The workload continues to increase so I have two university students helping on a casual basis. This gives me more time to answer questions and write new chapters and newsletters.

Help please

I spend most of my time managing and adding to GrazingInfo, and don't charge now, partly because 20 minutes at \$75 an hour is \$25 minus tax makes it \$17 for making out an account and sending it and depositing it and the bookwork.

Farming and New Zealand have been extremely good to us so my wife Auriel, and I are doing it all at cost - in fact below cost. Our return for the hours worked over the last year was two cents an hour.

Within a few years my wife and I plan to sell the GrazingInfo web site with its 360 subscribers, but it doesn't earn enough to be saleable. We want it to go to someone who will keep it going.

So we now have a request for donations

We don't expect any from those who don't benefit much from it, but some have benefitted by thousands of dollars.

End at this point so they don't forget to donate

The Waikato Regional Council latest report on soils, etc., in Section 1.5 states that an accepted fertiliser advisor in someone with a certificate or with experience. They should have added, 'with success and not influenced by commissions or sales'.

Most inspectors will be bureaucrats trained to tick boxes, not to discuss situations, so fight fire with fire by having convincing documents to read to them, and then give to them fortheir "evidence" files.

Print the first page of Analysing pasture tissue versus soil tests. If you can't get it from your pdf then email me and I can email the first page in Word or Mac Pages. Please say which.

Also print the Pasture Mineral Analysis (I first did in 1990 and no others do) and Fertiliser Nutrient Planner spreadsheets, then they'll see that Overseer is incomplete.

The Waikato Council should be ashamed of their long tedious publication, and also because they used a sans-serif headings font making it harder to read, instead of a serif reading font, such as Times New Roman, used by all newspapers and most books. See wfco

VaughanJones
GrazingInfo Ltd

http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2012/01/23/wheat-or-rice-as-safe-starch.aspx?e_cid=20120123_DNL_art_1

New Zealand products should promoted as approved by the New Zealand Organic Authority.

AgResearch ? on Organic Farming

They said to check industry and legal requirements, but should have published them.

AgResearch recommended contacting "fertiliser sales representatives" for advice!

They said to avoid soil phosphorous buildup, but it has already happened because of what they are still recommending, such as soil testing and taking fertilising advice from "fertiliser sales representatives".

Subscriber questions answered -

What causes small leaves and small flowers in clovers. I seem to recall an email from you somewhere about this, but can't find it. Steve.

It is in Elements > Calcium which has been updated with more very important information. It pleased me to see that 320 of 370 subscribers have read Calcium, showing that you have got the message, which the Mafia have not. The latest newsletter from AgResearch and other recent information about ryegrass pulling blamed Black Beetle never mentioned lime. Low calcium and its

synergisms that make Ca work are usually the cause, but low overall fertility can be a cause.

Add Bakelies using photos

Email us if you have any questions, although most answers are in GrazingInfo eBook.

Do Grazing > Controlled Grazing.

Concrete pads and bins waste manure, reduce farm fertility, increase pollution, stress cows and create more pollutions to supervise and maintain without pollution penalties. It is a pity that they aren't portable because there are many for sale.

On-off grazing can do a better job. See Grazing > Controlled Grazing.

Before spending money on anything other than improving grazing, remember what some have said after mechanising animal feeding, "I now don't like farming."

In the northern hemisphere I've converted hundreds I know of, from confinement to grazing and many said, "I now love farming and watching the animals enjoy their lives, and I mine added to by extra profits ."

A reason that some farm consultants do soil tests is to enjoy the commission they get and to talk about CEC, Base Saturation and other spin to make themselves sound knowledgeable, which they are not, because 95% of farms I go on to are lacking calcium, boron, selenium, cobalt and other very important trace elements. Pasture roots are shallow (my best are 35 cm deep with nodules down there too, soils are hard and dead, etc.

Free Items also in Index and

Before buying new products check their true value by entering their analyses into

Computers

Photos and attachments can sometimes be enlarged by double clicking them.

Xtra have an aggressive spam filtering system that regularly blocks legitimate mail sent to Xtra customers.

Also, there is a known bug in Microsoft Exchange mail servers that strips attachments off incoming mail if all of the following criteria apply :

email was sent from a Mac

email is in rich text or HTML format

there is an attachment

but it will almost certainly be because of Xtra doing something.

Get Fieldays information on this

Calcium needs boron to work, just like soap needs water. So don't apply lime without it.

Maize needs a lot of boron to make large cobs and to fill the cobs to the tip. Cob numbers, size and fill determine the feed value of the crop. There is very little feed value in stems and leaves.

You should get a better price if selling well cobbed maize silage.

Look at the photo on our Home Page - three cobs on one stem. Southern hemisphere farmers read Forage Crops > Maize to see why your cobs are not filled with kernels and northern hemisphere farmers read it to see what to do in spring.

Two years ago the cows were nervous and sick, with low heads and dry noses like yours. Yesterday they gathered around us and had moist noses with some dribbling saliva, the first digestive juice, from their mouths.

His milk production last week at 2.2 kg MS per cow is his highest ever and SCC is 80 after 200 previously for years. Total MS is up from 15 fewer cows (310 down to 295). The saving from 15 cows

is \$17,000 which is profit in his pocket, plus extra production from the remainder, less pasture damage, fewer weeds, more contented and better condition cows and owners, etc.

He is feeding 38 grams of Feedtech per cow per day.

The above is what happens on all the farms who do what I say - reduce cow numbers, apply LimeMag of fertiliser with trace elements twice a year based on pasture analyses, feed Feedtech, feed out along fence lines, etc.

His concrete feed pad remains clean and unused with a lot less effluent in shed and pond.

Muck in rotary shed was high, but now only one or two per round.

Applied 6 t of LimeMag mix in last two years.

He felt that the farm has been going backwards since the drought three or so years ago.
Feeding more supplement for the same production, less profit, more work!
Pastures not lasting. New ryegrasses thinning after two years while older paddocks don't.

Previous 2 years fertiliser mix as recommended by fertco rep was dicalcic super with potash on non effluent areas. About 50 kg P, 70 kg K.

Fertiliser reps didn't recommend lime so we didn't apply it. [Would a diesel sales person recommend buying water, even if water was the only thing needed? VJ]

GONE

Milking

A farmer who had too much dung in the milking shed, wrote, "A lot less dung so far this year after fixing an electrical supply to a house off the same transformer (overloaded) as dairy shed. Only 2 or 3 per milking now."

His milk production is up and somatic cell count down from 150,000 or 200,000 for two years to 80,000. He also changed to DeLaval Feedtech soluble mineral mix, which usually halves the somatic cell count if fed at 0.008% of animal live weight. Use the spreadsheet called

Many milk lift pumps are wired incorrectly so cause shocks. Peter Dewes, of Hamilton (07 849 4188) is flat out rewiring them and teaching electricians how to wire them.

If you have not bought the 50 Spreadsheets of Software, it could pay you to look at what they can do for you. One is the Dairy Feed Budget that shows the Conversion Rate of milk in kg DM/kg MS, depending on breed & quality and calving date. In January it is 12. See the Dairy Feed Budget Spreadsheet.

If trace elements are needed in autumn, but P is still high, use 500 kg per hectare of 50% LimeMag to carry the trace elements. This amount of Ca will not cause milk fever.

Insist on Selcote Ultra until the Ravensdown one has been proved. You can use some as a trial if you like, but NOT on all the farm or pasture or animal selenium could get too high.

Ravensdown Se is based on sodium selenate, which is very soluble. It and the organic chips are a cause of Se sometimes being much too high which is bad and dangerous, especially for horses, and three months later too low.

Someone in the fertiliser business, wrote to me, "I am very sceptical of the Ravensdown claims."

1 kg per hectare of Selcote Ultra is only \$8 per hectare.

Nitrogen

The Southern Hemisphere farms that have had very little rain during the last four months of late summer and autumn will have a buildup of nitrogen in their soils, so should not apply any until the pastures or crops show signs of needing it. If you do apply it, your animals will be more likely to suffer nitrate toxicity. Chisel ploughing also releases nitrogen, which adds to it.

Two or three litres per hectare of Tri-Fix*, or about 100 kg per hectare of N-Rich Ammo (30% N, 14% S) which is half Urea and half of Sulphate of Ammonia, should be enough. The one application of Tri-Fix is usually enough to last even a crop of maize to harvesting.

*Tri-Fix is made by Elisio, 4 Austen Place, Pukekohe 2340. www.elisionz.com

See both Forage Crops > Maize, and Brassicas. In USA it is called N-Fix. I have used and recommended it for 20 years. It reduces N from leaching and holds moisture in the soil in dry weather.

Zinc

Animals that have been fed high levels of zinc to control facial eczema should have the zinc decreased slowly or they can suffer low zinc for a while because it is not stored in livers, like copper is, so their absorption of it becomes inefficient, as happens with calcium if fed, or if too high in pastures before calving.

All feeds should be changed gradually over a week or two. Go to Asia and feel what happens to your stomach for the first week or so. They have the same problem after coming here.

Palm Kernel Extract (PKE)

On the above point, the same applies to cows fed PKE, so reduce it gradually.

Copper will have built up in the livers of animals fed PKE, so they have to reverse the process and start using it from feed and the liver. Last year it was found that levels could drop from three times what they should be, to a deficiency, within one to three months. Livers can be checked.

Forage Crops

Farmers will buy forage crop seeds soon. Order early so you don't miss out on the best. Plan to receive it at least two weeks before needed so you can do a germination test by spreading about 20 seeds from the middle of the mix and on a paper towel on a plate or tray, and then spread a paper towel on top of it and moisten it thoroughly because it dries out quickly on the first day, then spray more water on as required. Place it where you'll see it daily. Germination should be better than 90%. Only 20% of a ryegrass germinated last autumn.

A two hectare summer forage crop sown last spring failed, because no Pasja was added. Another failed because rolling was inadequate. See Cultivation for a photo of how firm the seedbed should be. I frequently see higher germination in the tractor wheel marks, simply because of more compaction and more moisture sucked up. The recent dry springs cccc

Good growth in one season usually means less growth in the next because more nutrients have been used up, so analyse your ryegrass or other grass tissue and use the Fertiliser or Lime Nutrient Planners to plan the best to apply. Doing this has achieved excellent growth.

Look at Falconer 695217 18 May 2009 mixed and clover figures. I can't see any reason for doing the clover. The clover graphs were wrong. Both were 0.29 which tells me that

Iodine in the mixed was high because it is at Raglan so has sea breezes. Ca was also high which tells me it had a lot in the mix of other than grass.

I have asked the developers to file them under a Newsletter heading in the Home Page from where you just click Newsletters to access them.

The reasons for not getting emails, which we also miss at about one a week (That we know of!) is caused by Telecom's old exchange, old copper wires that the plastic peeling off and being overloading or bad weather affecting satellite systems like Farmside which some farmers couldn't do without. Out of 336, 96 use extra, 79 Com, 34 Farmside, 19 Gmail, 15 Yahoo, 9 Clear, 6 xnet, 6 slingshot, and 2 to 5 a dozen smaller ones.

Telecom's repair division called Chorus, has vans around Hamilton replacing some of the old copper wire with fibrooptic cable, so we get disconnected for short periods occasionally.

If you have not received one, first check your Window > Downloads and Documents, Junk and Trash. After that check Newsletters, after they are installed.

See Fieldays re xtra

Like lots of ODPG things, they are so wrong.

They have the Feedtech analysis and only didn't like the Iodine so I said we could change it the one they approve, but as usual no reply.

ODPG approved a mineral mix which has Manganese, In New Zealand this is so wrong. It is at toxic levels in many pastures in New Zealand and in waters and in PKE. It is the biggest cause of cow and human stress that I know of.

Don't buy from or take advice from anyone who recommends manganese in New Zealand. USA is low in it, New Zealand is high and caused more stress in animals than any other mineral. Mineral mix developers should know this.

In New Zealand never feed manganese or any minerals containing it. Read Elements > Manganese and you'll see why.

Blue colour is to edit and go

Read Calf Rearing in Dairying now before problems occur, and XXXXXX mastitis.

I'm sure you and Brendan are learning the next 7 things - and more.

1. Six monthly testing followed by correct fertilising are essential. Twice yearly trace element fertilising is more important than main element fertilising, because selenium can get down from 0.3 ppm 0.03 which is 10% of what it should be. Main elements don't get as low. Calcium in ryegrass should be 0.8%, but seldom gets below 0.4% which is only 50%.

2. Wet soils get high in molybdenum.

3.

4. Those who say that lime is slow to work (implying years), are wrong when it comes to Rorison's lime, which is softer, and when applied with synergistic elements, and other elements which combine to make the soil healthier, make it act faster, i.e., in two months which is fast for lime. All my clients have been surprised at how fast earthworms increase and make casts, and how pastures don't dry out and grow more clover, only a few months after applying lime.

5. Applying lime and deficient elements then grow more pasture, so use up more of all elements. 17,000 kg of pasture DM per hectare use up 68 kg of P, minus what is returned later in animal manure.

6. That pasture analysing shows what goes on in soils.much faster than testing the soils does. Our new neighbour works for Hill Lab and told me how soil tests vary, and gave the reasons, both of which I knew. A person applying to help me told me that he had divided a soil sample in two and got them analysed for quite different results. An American divided into 6 and sent them to 6 labs for quite different results. The USA, laboratories make fertiliser recommendations (which I believe is dangerous), six totally different fertiliser recommendations were made.

7. The improving of your farm is not going anywhere near fast enough, simply because you are not doing what I suggest, and often too late. Remember that you were about 24 years behind with lime, and are still 18 years behind. 6 or 9 more tonnes may fix it.

END

Soils Cultivation Drainage Earthworms Types

New Zealand grew and expanded amazingly without ‘foreign’ funds for 150 years.

Do Boron

Northern hemisphere farmers, please read Boron, which I’ve just been updated, and do trials and let us know. I’ll be setting some up in our spring.

See www.vaughanjones.info Newsletters and Testimonials for more on them, and to join FarmingProfit.com

If excess selenium is applied to soils by mistake, as has recently happened on a farm, make sure that horses don’t graze it because they can become permanently damaged health-wise. See Horses.

If you don’t want the newsletters, let me know and I can stop them coming to you, but it means none will come to you. It can be reversed if necessary.

Now is the time to check how many cows you should be milking next season and pasture and cash budgets, all using spreadsheets. Plus more.

One farmer (Fernyhough) went from losing \$240,000 to profiting \$200,000 in three years was partly by using spreadsheets. and reducing cows by 67, saving \$94,000, and profiting more.

Read Beef Profiting to see how profitable pasture analysing is, and correct liming, using the Lime Nutrient Planner spreadsheet. It has saved some thousands and earned more. Say if you need help using them.

Ones like Lime Nutrient Planner are colour coded. You enter only in the yellow cells. Most New Zealand farms are low in calcium which is costing them a lot. Read Calcium in Elements to see why.

Consulting since 1960 has shown me that those who read a lot do extremely well, while those who don’t read much suffer. Others have found the same.

Please enter your name on spreadsheets and other items you attach and email to me. I get dozens and if I don’t notice that there is no name and don’t enter yours myself before opening it, I may have to marry it to emails to find out. This means closing it and opening it again from the email. Sometimes I drag them to your folder and then later open it to work on it and - no name and there are others also open - without names.

Please also enter the dates on everything.

In all correspondence, please add your location. I can’t remember where 330 of you live.

The spreadsheet Dairy cow numbers for max profit kg has been updated. Now that you have this season’s production is the time to check how many cows you should milk next season for maximum profit. It is the biggest single factor in increasing your profit. It costs \$1,400 to keep a cow for a year. Reducing cow numbers increased Fernyhough’s profit by \$98,000. Pasture mineral analysing and applying 8 tonnes of lime per hectare over three years, and no potash, and not much phosphate.

Beef Feed Budget lb USA is also updated.

Pasture Mineral Records is easier to use. Please delete your old empty ones and copy and paste your records to the new attached one.

I saw no shortage of P or K, but did of Ca

The silage fed in the middle of paddocks had killed pasture where weeds will grow. Feeding under the fence line avoids this and waste.

Some pasture is too long.

Graze the long ones by giving cows a quarter or half the paddock for a few hours so they just nip the tops off.

Spray couch. When it seeds animals spread it.

Please put a tag on the post where we did the lime trial to see if more lime will give a return. It has on all other trials even after 8 tonnes per hectare.

It would have been better if the lime had been a complete mix.

When you get some more complete mix, do a trial with it.

I'll be emailing the results of one to all soon.

Cobalt is NZ\$50,000 per 1,000 kg so 1 kg per hectare increases

A small five tynes chisel plough is for sale for \$2,000 plus GST in Taranaki. Contact Glen & Jen Bakewell <gjbakewell@hotmail.com>

Ask Glen if sold and tell owner - If you have peat, it would benefit from longer bolt on tynes to go deeper and move lime down further.

Don't buy Roundup or Glyphosate for growing maize silage. Photo of pasture in maize. If creeping grasses have to be killed, use Grazon. See Gardens & Lawns.

If they don't see the light, the only thing up for auction, will be Fonterra.

Their using NZ dairy farmers money to create future competition is suicidal - they have already shot all their feet off.

Apply fertiliser or lime as soon as possible to get the growth and balance better for winter and early spring. Fertilising is far more valuable in autumn because it increases winter growth which is worth twice as much as spring growth, which can be a cost if it makes pastures rank or had to be conserved.

Molybdenum has been trialled on this farm many years ago by MAF and found to give a good response.

Because your Ca is so low.

Molybdenum is expensive and is a patch up rather than a supplement like lime.

It is like giving a starving person an injection to keep them alive, rather than food.

% Potassium K 2.7% 3.1% 3.7% (toxic)

Ryegrass. Calcium Ca 0.8% 0.63% 0.34% (LOWWW)

% Phosphorus P 0.40% 0.43% 0.39% (Optimum)

If you don't get your Ca up you'll have a bad season.

The recommended fertiliser mix of DAP with such low Ca has killed cows.

Buying Gafsa with your figures is like Eskimos buying snow.

Please read Calcium again.

Burning their furniture, then house to keep them warm.

Elemental sulphur Saudi fine powder (100%S)

Read Minerals see correct cow

On the same farms, maize germinated perfectly, partly because sown earlier, and partly because it is sown 5 cm deep into more moisture than is at about one centimetre from the surface, where Pasja and similar small seeds have to be, so some didn't germinate. Another reason for the low germination of small seeds is the fact that in dry powdery soils they get buried too deeply to come up.

If dry in autumn or next spring, pull a roller behind the chisel plough every time and cultivate and sow within one day by doing small areas. This also almost eliminates weeds germinating.

Also sow onto a firm seedbed and double roll several times.

HERE

More on pH

The pH story created a lot of interest.

If you don't get the Hill Laboratories newsletter request at mail@hill-labs.co.nz

Their March one explains what is known about soil tests, but what no one to my knowledge has publicly documented as well as Hills have. Some comes from the 1985 NZ Fertiliser Journal. It explains that the exact and correct depth is essential and should be recorded when ordering the soil test.

It reveals why so few in New Zealand who are doing soil tests are applying enough lime - because taking to only 7.5 cm (3 inches) will give a higher pH than going deeper as is done in other countries.

In life always get rid of the cause rather than treat the symptom.

Before I found in 1959 that lime increased earthworms that then ate the dead vegetation so reduced facial eczema spore breeding (we had only one mild case of facial eczema), and Gladys Reid found that zinc controlled it, MAF recommended spraying to kill the spores. This affected animal health adversely (spring eczema). See Free Blog, Testimonials, Tony & Gwen Ashford. Also read Facial eczema. Now a new spray is being promoted. I suggest that before trying it, you wait to see what effects it has on the animals of other farmers, and of course better still get rid of the cause by applying the correct amount of LimeMag and trace elements to get 20 or more earthworms per spade hole and all the other benefits.

Read Soils > Earthworms. The latest now from fertiliser scientists is that earthworms are not needed. See Earthworms photo of green patches where they were placed.

Read the updated Calcium and Nitrogen chapters which are most important aspects of farming.

I think the Bealey 2 years ago was sown at 25 kg/ha, and they recommended sowing subsequent paddocks at 33 kg/ha, which is what Brendan did.

Count how many per square metre. If not pulled the only other causes can be insect killing and pulling and overcrowding.

Add bits from pH breaks farmers

Stress that was at a high level with milkers and cows ceased.

Decisions were based on pasture mineral analyses, rather than antiquated soil tests, which result in serious financial losses and soil and animal health problems.

Collecting pasture for analysing and using the figures to calculate lime, fertiliser and trace elements requirements, will be shown.

One of their paddocks was given three tonnes per hectare of LimeMag and trace elements for about \$60 per tonne for three years, without \$400 a tonne phosphate or \$900 a tonne potash. The result has been faster growing clover-balanced healthier pasture, and animals.

Another paddock now has moss, weeds and even wilting of the deep rooting Tonic plantain, and less ryegrass, caused by another company's same-cost per hectare quarry dust mix.

Possibly the best Waikato maize crop, is on their farm. Learn how it was grown.

GRO Newsletter to do -

Many soils that have had too much artificial nitrogen and/or have grown harvested crops such as maize will be low in organic matter, so poultry manure could be the best form of nitrogen to apply. See the spreadsheet called Fertiliser & Effluent Values for how much poultry manure is worth. It also shows the very low value of liquid seaweeds and fish oils.

Federated Farmers should take the media to court for influencing farmers with misinformation. You'll have read them, mostly from Auckland townies, some over accentuating pollution. Auckland city air is un-breathable. and farmer profits for getting 60 cents a litre for milk they buy at \$2. If the good do nothing, the bad win.

Acid refluxes

In adults, a slouched posture is one of the important contributory factors to GERD. Muscles around the oesophagus go in a spasm and there is no straight path between the stomach and oesophagus in a slouched posture. Coughing, gas and acidity get blocked in the spasm, thus causing asthma kind symptoms. In short, the pathway between the stomach and oesophagus gets blocked by the spasms and shortening of the muscles in and around the area, which is caused by a slouched posture.

Most weeds prefer low fertility sour soils. Fleabane (Australian Fire Weed) is a low fertility weed.

The Delaval mineral mix I developed is for animals grazing correctly limed and fertilised pastures at or very near optimum mineral levels, because in fairness, it is for those farming correctly, whose animals still require some minerals, as almost all do.

Even good grazing farmers in all countries with their pastures at perfect mineral levels still have stragglers (slow growers in the mob) not doing well and taking a long time to finish for selling. Joel also has this costly problem. We had it until feeding the correct mineral balance.

HERE 1

I appreciate your reply to the consultant's fertiliser report, they have suggested to the bank that we should be using a 'formal fertiliser programme' which I now know would be a backwards step. Yes, I have started to use your budget/profit spreadsheets, they seem disinterested in the results we have projected, instead they prefer to rely on 'Industry Standards' .

'Industry Standards' from MAF in 1967 recommended hump and hollowing which would have cost Waikato farmer Ivan Forlong \$84,000 (\$210,000 today) and wrecked and devalued their peat farm. MAF hump and hollow trials in 1966 on the Rukuhia peat failed and they stopped doing it (Frank van der Elst, peat scientist.) My advice of buying a spinner drainer and putting them in every 30 metres in

the wettest areas, cost Forlongs about \$7,000 in todays money and made their farm. Ivan was forever grateful.

‘Industry Standards’ are today losing clover, over-stocking farms, destroying pastures, costing farmers a fortune in wrong fertilisers and resowing, and stressing farmers and animals, and lowering milk production.

My advice comes from what I and the best farmers are succeeding with, not what the average ones are failing with.

I’ve been told many times that LIC consultants come on farms and tell farmers that they need more cows and more urea, which is the opposite of what they really need, which is the correct rates of LimeMag and trace elements, based on pasture analyses.

Do newsletter to GrazingInfo

See

<http://www.farmingshow.com/stragglemuster/muster168.htm>

Health

<http://www.on2url.com/app/adtrack.asp?MerchantID=168392&AdID=540590>

Banks

The establishment has caused our farmers and country to earn nothing from sequestering carbon, by encouraging the excessive use of urea, and AgResearch doesn’t even know why organic matter levels in the Waikato have been dropping for 20 years.

In New Zealand the best farmers are and have been, ahead of the scientists for decades. In USA in 1992 Bill Liebhardt, soil scientist and sustainable agriculture director of the University of California, studied 40 grass farmers across the country and wrote in Agri View that they were ahead of their scientists by grazing pastures, so reducing costs by \$1.25 per hundred weight of milk. Some dairy farmers were changing to seasonal milk and saving a further \$5. Producing winter milk in the northern hemisphere is expensive. Savings from grazing also came from reduced labour and machinery use, and improved animal health.

Ruakura has wasted money on 35 second cow stimulation and on trying grazing 7 cows per hectare, which I told them Environment Waikato is trying to stop because of the extra pugging, application of more urea which increases the excess nitrogen in their urine, which is the biggest polluter.

A Madison University scientist became the laughing stock of farmers after they did a brassica grazing trial by letting the whole milking herd on to a two hectare paddock of different brassicas and reporting that cows, which had never seen or tasted brassicas, didn’t like any of them because they ate the grass on the headlands first.

Our Ruakura research centre has wasted money with identical twin stimulation trials, promoting drilling instead of over-sowing pastures, grazing seven cows per hectare “to see if it was possible”, despite this increasing pollution and the fact that their own figures showed that most farms could increase profits if they reduced cow numbers per hectare. Dairy farmers can use the spreadsheet called “Dairy cow numbers for max profit kg” to check theirs.

Banks in NZ had a ball a few years ago (\$11 billion profits in one year to Australia), but are due for a harder time than they have had by suddenly owning reclaimed residential properties - 17 from one person in Hamilton and couldn’t afford to maintain them, so had more and more empty, and did a flip to Australia. There are businesses going bankrupt, and of course the plain stupidity of bankrupting Crafars and not selling their 16 farms singly. Milk production is dropping and the one near Hamilton looks worse than three years ago, and much worse than the neighbours.

Banks have lots of money from overseas investors at 3% or less, to benefit from our high interest rates, so banks have been approaching farmers encouraging them to buy more cows, apply more fertiliser, never lime because what do banks know about farming, and lime is only a twentieth the price of fertiliser, so would not require so much borrowing, unless they are one of those who have not applied enough, or any lime, for decades.

Beat them down, or up, if investing. We are getting a good income from fixing a long time ago at a rate higher than was on their notice board.

Do the same when buying anything. I bought a pair of long trousers and a shirt last week after the sales were over. At the counter I asked, "Are these on special?"

"No, but they can be." She gave me a nice discount.

A major car firm is offering \$6,000 off new cars nation wide.

Always ask for the price for cash, which means immediate payment in any form.

Excesses are worse than deficiencies

On/off bad

milk fever is an example

I've never fed Ca nor recommended it. See Ca

Minerals

It's good that half of you have read one of the most important chapters called Minerals, in Feeding Supplements. It has been updated, so I suggest re-reading it. Without correct minerals, animals (and humans - see Human Health Elements) can suffer a host of problems and eat more pasture for less production.

Joel Salatin when with us

Sudden diet changes can be bad. Humans can also suffer when changing diets after going to different countries.

Misinformation fertiliser companies . Sowing rate all seeds

Northern hemisphere dairy and beef farmers, before spring calving is the time to feed magnesium in deficient areas. I have just updated the chapter to Version 1.8. Also read the updated Calf Rearing. Many other chapters have been updated so check the dates in Contents from the Home Page.

The wrong advice from the establishment enemy (Ruakura, AgResearch, LIC, DairyNZ, fertiliser companies, some consultants,) has caused our farmers and country to earn nothing from sequestering carbon, by encouraging the excessive use of urea, and AgResearch doesn't even know why organic matter levels in the Waikato flat areas have dropped since urea was applied excessively. Dairy farmers apply more urea than drystock farmers do on hills.

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Computers

Remembering Passwords

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If when you open a PDF chapter the pages are too big for your computer screen, use Command (Mac) or Control (Windows) - (minus) to reduce the setting, and or reduce it on your computer under View.

Operating system (e.g. WinXP):

Program and version you use to access Gmail (e.g. Internet Explorer 7 or Outlook 2003):

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On 4/11/2010, at 8:34 AM, Viv Forbes wrote:

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“It is no surprise that the world is facing a looming shortage of food and edible oils.

“Every market has two sides – demand and supply.

“On the demand side, increasing population and prosperity, especially in China, Brazil and India, must boost the demand for food.

“Normally this would increase food prices thus encouraging more production by farmers.

“Unfortunately, the western world is afflicted by an epidemic of anti-food legislation.

“Four foolish food policies stand out.

“Firstly, we have a massive diversion of cropland from producing food for humans to producing ethanol and biofuel

I wrote in May 2010, “The 2007 hundred year drought in parts of New Zealand looks like becoming the norm - for our life time, because of Chinese pollution.”

The 100 year average for November is 93 mm (3.6 inches). This year Hamilton got only 18 mm.

Please don’t blame “warming” because the small temperature increase until 2005 never caused anything. It is the pollution from the Asian factories belching out soot that makes big particles that gather large drops and large snow flakes.

The large rain drops sucked out of the clouds leaves less moisture for those of us further away like the Waikato and Victoria, Australia.

In my May 2010 Blog I warned about the dry summer for the same reason.

Please note that it is Australasia’s rain from north that is so heavy, leaving less for further south. Don’t be deceived by the wind direction. It is where the low comes from that matters.

See below by Doug edmeades

<http://www.farmingshow.com/stragglemuster/muster168.htm>

Carrot leaves have more feed value than the carrot roots. I eat the leaves with a Kiwi fruit, part of a mango, avocado, a date, nuts, lettuce, pea protein, salt and Canadian maple syrup in brown rice liquid or dairy milk, all ground up in a Magic Bullet or similar food processor.

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Pollution

This is the world's biggest problem, not the global warming until 2005 and now cooling, or 'climate change' which the gloom predictors now use to keep their stirring and money making going.

The heavy snow falls and floods has nothing to do with global warming or cooling or carbon dioxide. Both are caused by particles of soot in the air from the many Asian manufacturers and their governments' power stations spewing out soot - large particles.

Human-caused global warming has been blamed by many including the United Nations led Kyoto, self feeding group, most of the media, all led by thousands of scientists whose employment depends on blaming man-made global warming for all the weather problems. Many scientists have now been honest and pulled out of the 'warming' group because there are now have heat and cold problems occurring at the same time.

The answer, as in most things, is simple basics.

When at Weston Agricultural College in South Africa in 1947/8 our excellent geography and science teacher explained how rain and snow drops formed around particles of dust. Small particles made small ones, while large particles now being emitted in soot by increasing numbers of Asian factories, make large ones.

Emeritus Professor Gray, a distinguished climate scientist from the University of Colorado, said that observations and theory do not support these ideas of dangerous human-caused warming.

He added, these statements can't both be true. Who is right, and how should members of the public make up their minds on the matter?

That climate changes frequently, rapidly and sometimes unpredictably. It has been conventional knowledge amongst earth environmental scientists since the early days of ocean drilling in the 1970s. However, we do not read about such natural climate change in the everyday news. Instead, in 2007 the daily media, in pursuit of circulation needs, was full of doom and gloom about human-caused global warming. Climate alarmism is propagated by a diverse group of journalists, environmental lobbyists, scientific and business groups, church leaders and politicians, all of whom preach that we must 'stop climate change' by severely reducing human carbon dioxide emissions, two propositions that compete in impracticality.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a colourless, odourless gas that has been changing in earth's atmosphere through time in trace amounts ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand parts per million (ppm).

End.

Below is from Mr Viv Forbes, the most informed in the world on carbon. He is a good Queensland dry stock farmer and the author of www.carbon-sense.com

He has more sound basic knowledge about carbon dioxide and its effects, than any I know. See - <http://carbon-sense.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/pyramid-of-frauds.pdf>

Viv wrote -

Time to Topple the Pyramid of Frauds

20th December 2010

One of the fastest growing industries in the world is based on a pyramid of frauds whose inevitable collapse will be worse than the sub-prime crash.

The Global Warming Industry is now fed by billions of dollars from western taxpayers and consumers. It is based on the unproven and now discredited claim that man's production of carbon dioxide causes dangerous global warming.

The basic fraud is this. There is no evidence that carbon dioxide controls world temperature – just a theory and the manipulated results from a handful of giant computer models that very few people have checked or understand.

However, there is clear evidence from historical records of atmospheric carbon dioxide and temperature that carbon dioxide does not control temperature. Rather the reverse – as Page 2 of 4 solar or volcanic heat warms the oceans, the waters expel carbon dioxide.

Global warming causes an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide, not the reverse. Moreover, every day provides more evidence that current temperatures are not unusually high. Over the past 2000 years there have been two previous eras of warming ("the golden ages") separated by two mini ice ages ("the dark ages"). Both the Roman Warming and the Medieval Warming were warmer than today and there was no human industry causing that warming.

The next fraud, invoked as the first fraud started to falter, is the claim that carbon dioxide is a pollutant in the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is the food for all plants and thus the food source for all life on earth. It is not poisonous at any level likely to be experienced in the atmosphere and there is clear evidence that more carbon dioxide makes plants grow faster and bigger, and makes them more tolerant of drought, heat and salinity. Current levels are below those optimal for life.

A related scientific fraud is the claim that grazing animals increase atmospheric carbon. Any competent biologist can debunk this fraud by explaining the carbon food cycle.

Built on these frauds are the fraud-riddled carbon credit and carbon trading empires. The revelations of massive fraud in European carbon credits and the collapse of carbon trading on the Chicago Climate Exchange are harbingers of crises yet to surface. Carbon credits have no intrinsic value – they are dependent on political support, and this will always evaporate in time.

The next level of fraud is the alternate energy industry. Despite decades of subsidies and tax breaks the wind/solar power industry cannot survive unless the handouts continue, and their coal competitors are taxed heavily. To call these activities "industries" is a fraud – they are corporate mendicants.

Finally, those who waste millions on projects designed to prove the feasibility of burying carbon dioxide are committing a fraud on taxpayers and shareholders. There are no benefits of burying atmospheric plant food from any source. With zero benefits and huge costs CCS can never be "economic" and it is fraudulent to pretend it can ever be otherwise.

The global warming industry is a huge pyramid of financial and political fraud resting on a quasi-scientific foundation of quicksand.

End

Excellent Viv. Thanks.

The carbon racket is costing and harming some farmers so they should spread the above and encourage everyone to join www.carbon-sense.com the world's most balanced, honest* and complete web site on carbon dioxide.

* Viv Forbes is not funded or bribed by those who benefit from preaching 'Global Warming' or anything else.

He is a farmer client. When I visited his farm an hour west of Brisbane in January 2006 when on holiday there, I was most impressed with his knowledge, farming practices, skills in many quarters such as even coal mining.

Do in Sept 2012

Now is not the fertilising time in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere, but it the time to think

about it.

Lime, fertilisers, trace elements & dusts

Grazing farmers' biggest annual bill is the feeding of pastures with lime, fertilisers and trace elements. It is therefore imperative to buy the best, which begins with which is needed first, lime or fertiliser. All who have studied soils, liming and fertilising, know that soils need agricultural lime first for dozens of reasons (See Elements > Calcium.) and that some fertilisers and trace elements survive without leaching and work better in correctly limed soils.

Most of New Zealand and many countries have millions of tonnes of phosphate (P) locked up in their soils caused by using the typically inaccurate soil tests and then applying sulphuric acid treated fertilisers. Changing laboratories which some commission consultants do, doesn't change the antiquated system. Agricultural lime with its synergisms, cause P to become available. Meanwhile some P leaches, which is expensive and pollutes waterways.

Where do farmers usually get fertilising information?

Mostly from fertiliser companies and the swag of fertiliser sales people, who are seldom, or haven't ever been successful farmers. Almost none are from lime companies, or are lime sales people, simply because fertiliser profits are about 20 times higher. Fertilisers sell for about \$500 a tonne (potash NZ\$900 per tonne)

, whereas lime sells for between \$15 and \$26 dollars a tonne plus freight. The trace elements required are low in total value and earn little profit for the vendors. Some lime companies won't mix trace elements into their lime because doing so is a cost with no profit. Rorisons, owned by a farmer, does so willingly.

Applying any type of fertiliser to lime hungry soils is a waste, because more phosphate will fix and become unavailable, while more potassium, cobalt, selenium and some other elements will leach. Soils lacking lime have low cobalt and low selenium and applying them will not increase their levels in pastures much, if at all, so their application is an expensive waste.

So don't expect a fertiliser consultant (commission agent) or fertiliser company to suggest or agree with you about applying lime instead of their fertiliser or quarry rok dusts.

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“Four foolish food policies stand out.

“Firstly, we have a massive diversion of cropland from producing food for humans to producing ethanol and biofuels for cars.

“Secondly, we have destruction of cropping and grazing land by conversion to carbon credit forests.

“Thirdly, there is a gradual suffocation of grazing land by a new politically protected species – woody weeds.

“Finally, we have the gradual creation of agricultural and horticultural deserts by the artificial droughts caused by the progressive political squeeze on irrigation water. *

“If politicians are silly enough to add a carbon tax to the costs of fuels, electricity, cement and transport, even more farmers will give up and retire to the beach.

“We are told that all this anti-food legislation will save the environment and cool the climate by a degree or so over the next century. **

“The real aim is to harvest green votes.

“Starving people will not appreciate this barren harvest.”

Congratulations Viv. The above are again, things that politicians and many others don't seem to see.

* Our NZ Hamilton City Council limits our use of water for watering our vegetable and flower gardens, saying that it wants to conserve and not waste water, but billions of gallons from the Waikato River flow out to sea daily which is waste, because it is not used. Their real reason is because they have not increased the size of the filtration plant, despite Hamilton doubling in size. Meanwhile they spend tens of millions on wasted extravagant projects.

** Since 2005, world and New Zealand temperatures have been dropping SLIGHTLY. With it has come more rain in the rainy season, when we don't want it, and less rain in the dry hot periods when we need it desperately, during which times drying winds have increased.

I'm all for global warming with more carbon growing more grass and better weather, but wish that China would stop polluting and causing large drops to drop more rain at the first land rise and leave nothing for the Waikato and Victoria.

Mineral Feeding

Row 42 shows that Selcote Ultra fertilised pasture is the best, cheapest and only way of supplying enough selenium, but if lime is lacking, soils won't hold selenium.

The extra milk protein produced and other benefits more than reimburses the cost of Selcote Ultra at 1 kg per hectare costing \$8 per ha.

The original DeLaval and Animal Remedies Board veterinarians' recommendation for Feedtech in 1990 was 0.006% or 30 grams per 500 kg cow. Since then

the typical selenium level in NZ pastures has decreased, because much more urea use has been used and lime use has decreased. Calcium increases the holding of Se in soils.

* Selcote Ultra slow release prills contain 1% of elemental selenium and can achieve 5 mg of elemental Se in 17 kg of pasture, which is needed for good health.

Selenium chips are water soluble and not slow release, so can make the selenium level go much too high, which can be dangerous, especially for horses.

Selenium chips should not be applied at more than 0.5 kg per hectare, so needs to be applied twice a year. Even then, the selenium will go too high and then too low.

In North America applying selenium was not allowed until Selcote Ultra was invented and tested to ensure that there was no leaching which chips do.

I worked with Principal Research Scientist, Dr Umesh Gupta of the Canadian Department of Agriculture who accepted for the whole of Canada

that leaching and pollution from 1 kg of per hectare of Selcote Ultra prills did not occur, so all of Canada is allowed to use it, while not all USA States

allow it, partly because dry, alkali soil States have toxically excess Se.

See

<http://www.farmingshow.com/stragglemuster/muster168.htm>

Rainfall ? Sept 2012

Global cooling has been here since 2005 so New Zealand's North Island fifth dry summer could occur, so consider sowing an extra paddock in Pasja and millets so you are not short of low-cost feed in summer. See Forage Crops of Brassicas & Millets.

When should fertiliser and lime be applied?

Unfortunately when spring comes farmers think of fertilising, and fertiliser sales people think of making their fortunes, going by the fertiliser company profits that they boast about, so the sales pressure is on to a receptive market.

Since 1960 I've had calls from dairy farmers in many springs asking why their cows wintered well, calved well and milked well, then in spring when in full flush, some cows became unwell, sometimes with an increase in mastitis and/or cell counts and dropping milk yields. Mostly this occurs following the application of spring fertiliser usually of a superphosphate or a similar mix, not reactive phosphate.

An Australian farmer blamed superphosphate and high phosphate for making him and his sheep sick, which occurred in spring after applying superphosphate.

If your pasture P levels are above the optimum of 0.4% and you apply more of any water soluble P, toxicity will adversely affect animals. In this respect, DAP or MAP are the worst, because they have no calcium, which is needed to balance the P. Gafsa and similar reactive phosphates don't cause this problem because they are not water soluble and have about 33% calcium carbonate (CaCO₃), or 12% calcium (Ca).