

### Payments to keep GrazingInfo alive

Thank you to those who have contributed, and especially those who have paid much more than we expected, to allow GrazingInfo to continue. Some subscribers have made generous payments, while one for whom I saved, and/or made, nearly half a million dollars through consulting visits galore, and a thousand emails over three years, paid only \$50! To save them thousands (\$210,000 a year spent on Supplements, \$27,000 on Animal Health, while Fertilisers was only \$90,000), all I did was to get them back to basics, but they have reverted to some expensive, useless, bad, silver bullets - the grape vine informed me! That is life.

Vets are now increasingly selling silver bullets because, after farmers get back to the correct basics, they then need vets only for injections, blood and liver tests.

Sorry about going on, but some farmers are buying so much junk, leading to bankruptcies. At \$8 payout farmers survive and the crooks thrive, at \$6 for two years in a row farmers can lose their farms, and/or commit suicide. These were frequent in 1984 under ACT policies, and when the Fonterra payout dropped to \$4.40. I feel sick at the thought of what could happen to some.

Thanks to you all for supporting GrazingInfo and to those who write glowing testimonials and get people to join. I say, 'people' because the Garden, Health\* and Investing chapters help all, not just farmers.

\*A quarter who come here are gluten intolerant, and most have mercury poisoning. Both toxins affect people's brains, so their owners need help to farm correctly and profitably.

If you are within an hour of Te Awamutu, it could pay you to use Merv Gyde as an accountant and a helper. I met him when consulting for a company to help stop their new agents from going broke. My wife and I changed to his company - what a gold mine. Our local family now use him, as do many friends, even if from a distance. He is in contact with banks and the finance industry that give advice on trends, and he gives us good advice about where things are going, which we use to our advantage - without speculating and not in shares, which I have always avoided. Never ever trust others with your money.

Merv is kindly advising some of his clients to join GrazingInfo.

Gyde Wansbone, 195 Mahoe St, Te Awamutu, 07-872-0585. [merv@gydewansbone.co.nz](mailto:merv@gydewansbone.co.nz)

Unfortunately 99% of people don't know about GrazingInfo. Farmers like being one-up on their neighbours, so they don't tell others how to improve, or where to source honest information, as in GrazingInfo.

Organic organisations and silver bullet sales people are quoting and using GrazingInfo information, which is pleasing and what it is about, but implying it is theirs, without acknowledging GrazingInfo, which is dishonest and illegal.

Most of the farming media information is commercial (including from consultants promoting goods on commission) and from commercial companies, or sales pitches ending with, "Copy supplied." That from the 'establishment' is usually old. Much is what the best farmers were doing a decade before.

GrazingInfo Ltd is now GST registered - number 98-827-706 so you can claim the GST back on payments. Please indicate if you need a receipt.

To pay please click Make Payment, then transfer to TSB account # 15-39720-008107-00

and please add your name, or use PayPal, or a cheque.

### **Report on the two June 2012 Field Days near Hamilton**

Many are waiting for this, which I hope will soon be in GrazingInfo under Trials & Field Days - we'll tell you when. It will allow the inclusion of photos and be read by all now and others in the future. More photos are being taken to show the results of what can be done.

### **Science twisted to untruths**

A field day at Gordonton on 25 June 2012 for scientists, consultants and farmers was run by Robin Boom, to try to get so called scientists to use accurate, current, practical, useful proven facts, rather than old and twisted Ruakura theory, in one case done in 1954 and twisted and quoted by money makers. The untruth that lime doesn't move down in peat soils, so should not be applied to the surface, is the worst use of twisted science ever, and shows the lack of useful up-to-date accurate information the 'establishment' has on peat. Please read GrazingInfo > Soils > Peat Part 1 for the original correct wording written by Frank van der Elst (the scientist frequently deliberately misquoted by those selling fertilisers) in Soil Groups of New Zealand, Part 4, Organic Soils, NZ Society of Soil Science 1980.

Ruakura, MAF, AgResearch, DairyNZ, and even Lincoln University, still twist it. I explained to Lincoln and they apologised, because, unlike some of the others, Lincoln doesn't get bribed for blocking the use of lime. I was in contact with them over only now promoting information I gave them in a spreadsheet on disc 12 years ago, which shows how milking too many cows per hectare is unprofitable. I hope all you dairy farmers have used it in the spreadsheet called 'Dairy cow numbers for max profit'.

The Gordonton meeting failed partly because Doug Emeades, who needed the most help, oozed criticisms galore, mostly interrupting others and pushing his weak barrow. He repeatedly made incorrect statements about liming (to please the fertiliser industry) and then said several times that he knew nothing about peat, despite being paid excessively to write a booklet on peat for Environment Waikato, which confirmed that he knew little about peat (it had the same incorrect statements), and reduced the profit of some farmers.

The annoying thing is that 90% of peat farmers know that lime-plus does move down into peat soils needing it, and then grows more pasture than even the best nitrogen, and for a lot longer. See evidence with photos in Trials & Field Days in a few weeks time.

Most research and trial results quoted today by scientists is old, so their science is often out of date, or at the best only copies of what the best farmers have been doing for a decade, before scientists prove it. Meanwhile some scientists cause farmers to lose thousands of dollars.

At the field day some clovers didn't have to be measured to see that they were deficient in sulphur (yellow) and boron (hard brown edges of leaves). I pointed this out, and the 'establishment' group criticised me. Retired MAF scientist Mike O'Connor was there, and agreed that the trial he did to prove me wrong on one of my Walton client's 'new volcanic soil' farms, which have a naturally high pH, had 'faults'. The boron didn't have lime at four tonnes per hectare with its synergisms!

Walton dairy farmer, Tania Fernyhough, told me that the reason they and others around Walton didn't apply much lime for 50 years (so lost millions of dollars) was because they were told by fertiliser companies and MAF that it was not needed, because the pH was OK. Read

‘pH use is wrecking farms’ and read the other pH chapter with it.

One at the field day wanted to know what qualifications I had! I told her, an MS, which is Master of Success. I could have added, a Commercial course with honours which gained me a two year bursary to Weston Agricultural College with full keep, where I got 99% in Dairying after two years in a four year course. It taught us every type of farming, from vegetable growing, butter making and poultry for us boarders, to all types of cropping and animals. Read Sheep. To pass I had to shear a Merino bigger than I was.

### **Like economists - soil scientists seldom agree**

This leaves farmers to decide, which is just as well, because the moment a good farmer thinks, he turns on the ‘making money’ mode, something our scientists have not done except when Dr John Penno, now Synlait CEO, was director, and we discussed the importance of it. A trial without dollars is useless.

An example is soil testing versus pasture analysing. Ken McNaught in the 1950s, one of Ruakura’s most forward thinking scientists, showed how much more accurate pasture analyses are than soil tests based on pH, Olsen P, etc. High potassium recommendations causing thousands of milk fever cases, and losses of thousands of dollars, have been experienced by many. Read the Science chapter when it is added to [www.grazinginfo.com](http://www.grazinginfo.com), which, as you know, is the world’s largest, most modern and completely unbiased book, full of anecdotal results.

The very good MAF scientist, David Musgrave, when in Palmerston North, confirmed my 1958 findings that agricultural lime, applied with the deficient major and trace elements to increase earthworm numbers, prevented facial eczema completely.

This was, and still is, ignored by the scientists being sponsored by poison suppliers. They ignored Gladys Reid until at the annual Ruakura conference after she stood up and got applauded by the 500 farmers, after which ex veterinary director Dr Gordon Edgar told his scientists at the top table, “You’d better look into zinc.” They should have looked into lime-plus a decade before.

Ruakura had been working on facial eczema prevention for decades, with large government grants. It took them three years to come up with the same figure Gladys and her followers were using.

The slow ‘pathetic crawling’ is again confirmed by MAF still not recommending agricultural lime with pasture tissue analyses, to prevent facial eczema at no cost, and without the adverse side effects that spraying pastures and excess zinc cause. Every year reports are published of outbreaks of facial eczema, when earthworms, which multiply after lime-plus and eat the thatch, can stop it completely. See Animal Health > Facial eczema.

The ‘no cost’ is because the lime with the deficient synergistic trace elements, now known as ‘lime-plus’, grows more pasture than any other element in 90% of New Zealand soils, including P, which has been overused (based on soil science) so has caused an excess to be fixed in our soils, to such an extent that it is a major pollutant. Applying several tonnes of lime-plus per hectare, depending on Ca level in ryegrass (it should be 0.8%), makes locked P become available, and reduces the ill effects of K.

Some farms have suffered from high potassium (K). Please send examples of the overuse some of you have suffered, which, at \$800 a tonne, is costing farmers much of their fertiliser budget, with increased animal health costs, to [support@grazinginfo.com](mailto:support@grazinginfo.com) Thanks.

## Science failures

1. Science that didn't get used was to stimulate cows for 35 seconds for more production. This would increase the milking time of a 500 cow herd by six hours a day, and breed a herd of slow let-down cows. New Zealand dairy farmers have changed the national herd to fast let-down cows. I've seen cows in Japan be washed and stimulated for half a minute, then take 30 minutes to milk out.

2. Ruakura #4 dairy had to drill 75% of their farm with Yatsyn pastures every year, because they pulled, because of sowing at double the needed rate and a lack of lime-plus. Good farmers were broadcasting less of their farms with lower rates, and getting no pulling. For 30 years I'd told the Ruakura scientist in charge of pastures that half their sowing rates of seeds gave better results. In 2011 the same scientist ran a field day attended by 25 farmers to 'prove' it, despite there being serious mistakes in it.

3. No-till drilling from Massey University's John Baker, who had a commercial interest in selling drills, has said that farmers give it up in most cases after three or four years. If it were compared with chisel ploughing to bring up some subsoil, no-till would never have taken off, except in rare cases.

4. Sowing fertiliser next to seed is promoted by some who should know better. The potassic chloride lowers germination, and maize has failed after dry weather because the roots had not gone down. Read Forage Crops > Maize.

5. Ruakura did a trial on milking seven cows per hectare on their Lye Farm which I consulted for before they bought it and it had better pastures than now and the cows got minerals so didn't eat soil like they did under AgResearch. The authorities were discouraging high stocking rates because of pollution. I asked the scientist what he thought he was achieving, because I, an Australian computer wiz and Ruakura, decades ago, had proved that less than half that number was more profitable, in fact seven per hectare would bankrupt farmers. They stopped it. If they had compared lime-plus with urea, they would have earned their keep which is up to a million dollars a year. A stupid one on reducing methane production by cows cost million a year for five years, for no benefit.

I'm boring you. Read Elements > Calcium, Animal Health > Facial eczema, pH, and the disastrous Olsen P, which has caused millions of tonnes of P to not be utilised until limed, and then to rise from about 3% to about 5% WITHOUT APPLYING ANY, which is much higher than needed. Read Beef for evidence. The Calcium chapter shows how to measure pasture mineral levels to decide fertilising. See the Winchmore Irrigation P and Ca figures, and those of six of my clients in Japan, working with their MAF on how to increase humus levels - all in Calcium.

Ruakura's use of Yatsyn for ages shows that they had not recognised its weakness of pulling, and being disliked by cows because of its high endophyte. Trials I was involved with on Bernie Leuthard's Rukuhia farm showed that the somatic cell count increased on Yatsyn, and decreased on Embassy, doing so each day several times.

When I wrote about Yatsyn pulling more than others, I was threatened to be sued. I told them that I had no money, but the bad publicity would lose them a lot and asked them why they didn't come to the dry Orini and Tahuna Waikato hill country and select the best of the surviving plants, which they did. Yatsyn also suffered rust more than some, which showed them what they could learn from getting out on farms. I said to avoid the rusty ones, and to take the

later flowering ones. Bronsyn was developed.

### **Lifestylers & others**

If an area of pasture gets damaged and needs oversowing, phone all seed companies in your area and tell them the area (hectares) to be done and approximate soil type (clay, loam, sandy, pumice, peat, etc.) the animals being grazed, and ask for a suggested mix, rate per hectare and price. Then email [mail@specseed.co.nz](mailto:mail@specseed.co.nz) for the same. Farmers find them knowledgeable and honest, so they will recommend correct proven rates per hectare, and are experienced and helpful. You could save a lot. All farmers remember them for spring forage crop seeds, and next autumn pasture seeds. If they sell out, they shop around.

### **Seed too deep**

Stephen Finch of Specialty Seeds Ltd, Free Phone 0800-727-8873,

E-mail: [mail@specseed.co.nz](mailto:mail@specseed.co.nz) Web: <http://www.specseed.co.nz/contact.asp>

He wrote, “Most germination complaints we get are caused by drilling too deep.

Specialty Seeds was the first seed company to point out that most companies recommend excessively high rates of seeding. Some claim it is because of the bad loose seedbeds, but they don't promote firm seedbeds because they want to sell more seed.

### **Silver bullet fertilisers?!**

Before buying new so called fertilisers (silver bullets) check their true value by entering their analysis and cost into Fertiliser and Effluent Values Spreadsheet. If liquids, they will cost you about \$3,000 a tonne of dry matter, as opposed to about \$500 a tonne for correct complete fertilisers.

### **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 perfectly. Dragging Word documents over Pages converts them into the easier to use Mac software.

Don't upgrade to Lion until they bring back Save As.

### **Buying cars**

Don't buy new cars that drop by 25% as soon as you buy them. Buy demo or low mileage used ones, and offer 20% less than they ask. They won't drop for years. Volkswagen is currently one of the most successful car making companies, taking over others and exceeding in design and quality. Our Volkswagen Passat at five years had the injectors replaced at no cost, because some overseas were failing at five years. At five and a half years it has only windscreen wipers a bit blocked with the badly filtered dirty Hamilton water.

### **Organic produce**

These are far lower in toxic metals, but not free of pollution because their fertilisers are seldom analysed for toxic elements. Those with seaweed and fish oil that I've analysed contain some toxic elements. Don't think that all kelp or other seaweeds are organically approved. How can they be when they grow in the sea, where the adjacent coastal farm may not be organic. Google for ‘kelp toxins’ and ‘seaweed mercury’.

## **Investing**

Now is a good time in New Zealand to borrow and invest in profitable properties. Small farmers can often make more money by investing in the best retail shops than by buying more land or Fonterra shares. Read Investing.