

Thank goodness a few areas have had more rain, but unfortunately some have had almost none, so let's hope that you all get enough soon, because the nights are getting cooler for growth and going into winter without feed is not funny. I hope that all affected farmers grow the best summer forage crop for your area from now on.

Nitrates - beware

Nitrate toxicity can be a problem in current conditions, so I have updated the Nitrates chapter which is in Animal Health. It is 7 pages. Here are two examples showing its importance.

1. Farmer knowledge is important, rather than experience, which is costly. A client not far away phoned to say that a cow grazing Shirohie Japanese millet had died quickly and had brown blood, so he knew the cause. I had said that at a metre high it would be safe, so I went to check. For one to die and no others to be affected could seem strange, but the answer was obvious. She was close to the gateway (high fertility) where Amaranthus was colossal. It is one of the worst nitrate weeds. Her paunch was full of it. She had obviously liked it, and luckily no others did. This mistaken identification has been made many times so the wrong plants have been blamed. To avoid this, check your crops (and pastures) and if there is a risk with toxic weeds, graze in the afternoon, but also watch them. If there is the slightest staggering, move them.

2. A New Zealand dairy farmer living here, but has a dairy farm and manager in Victoria had 140 cows die and 40 abort in June 2007, because they were allowed to graze a pasture containing Cape weed (Actothea), a high nitrate plant, for too long, **in the morning**. Had it been grazed in the late afternoon when nitrate levels are about half or a third, the cows might have been safe. Cape weed is also called Cape Dandelion. It grows up to 25 cm high with rosette shaped leaves with a woolly top. Its daisy-type flowers are yellow. Google for 'Cape weed photos' to see them.

All plants have higher levels in the morning and when sun is lacking, than in the afternoon and when sunshine is plentiful.

Don't do what DairyNZ have just recommended, which is to apply urea. N will already be high in dry soils.

New, from the updated Calcium chapter in Elements

An equal cost trial at Whatawhata on a lifestyle block that for years had been harvested and sold, not grazed, responded to LimeMagPlus (no N) shown (in Calcium chapter), within the poliwire with better, longer healthier clovers and grasses. Note the lack of ryegrass because LimeMagPlus had not been applied. Photos can't be sent with these newsletters because some computers won't accept attachments, and some have very slow speeds for loading photos, but photos are in the eBook Calcium chapter as smaller PDFs.

Dreadful deficiencies of Mg, Zn, B, S showed up. This was from three tonnes of plain hard agricultural lime per hectare (1.2 t per acre) being the equal cost of less soft LimeMagPlus applied.

Some farmers complain about the cost of LimeMagPlus, but the cost is in the B, Se, Co, S and Na and any other deficient elements which are essential to grow clovers, grasses and animals. Read Beef in Free Items and see what LimeMagPlus did to make a profit and green up the farm cattle and ducks. No N was used.

Applying the correct amount of LimeMagPlus, based on pasture tissue analyses, have saved farmers thousands of dollars and grown much more healthier and balanced pastures than urea that contains no solids (urea is made from air). Ammo (34-0-0-12) is far better because it has sulphur which is needed as much as N or P, but better still is clover. Tahora II white clover makes more N than any other clover.

Facial eczema

Don't wishful think that the cool nights will kill the spores, because there could be a lot and there are always warm areas, and the soil will still be warm.

Computer speed

Farmers, don't think you are the only ones that have slow Broadband speeds. I've seen speeds much slower than satellite ones at our daughter's in an Auckland suburb (The Gardens) and in Pukekohe.

Health

Hiccups

I had hiccups all day and at bedtime realised I would not sleep so Googled and found one with 9,300 testimonials and my using it stopped them in minutes. If needed, see Human Health > Hiccups.

Foods

Apple juices can contain a toxin called Patulin which is often in bought apple juices, typically made from old over mature apples that could not be sold for fresh consumption.

Nuts are peeled, so as soon as we buy them, we put them in the fridge. We now buy those in plastic bags so we know their age.

Flax or linseed is the same, so we buy organic whole linseed and grind enough for a week and keep them all in the fridge. Processed ones sold under flash names, gave us nausea.

All Macadamia nuts contain mercury because the trees absorb it, like poplars bring up zinc, Brazil nuts selenium and lead, so we don't eat them now.

Maize

Couch grew in most of the maize crops I saw from Hamilton one hour to Patetonga so it competed for moisture making the crops poorer. I pulled out some plants and all were shallow rooted because of; a lack of LimeMagPlus, water soluble toxic superphosphate fertiliser rather than reactive phosphate Gafsa with deficient elements, DAP side drilled in, rather than chisel ploughed in. See new photos in the Maize chapter proving it.

Couch is the worst weed on many farms. It makes oxalate that stops clovers from nodulating, so they die out. It should have been spot sprayed when first seen like we did.

I've told farmers to sell couch covered farms. It takes two sprayings to kill it, and if allowed to seed, will keep returning.

After seeing the masses of couch in maize, even in the Rukuhia very old research paddock, I wondered if couch had become resistant to Glyphosates, but no one I asked knew.

Droughts

A farmer felt that his farm has been going backwards since the drought in 2008. A lack of what is in LimeMagPlus was the reason, not just the droughts.

In 2008 many of my older clients, asked, "What drought?" Three I visited last month have done OK. One had four paddocks of Chicory, each giving four grazings. His pastures were short, but weed-free and a bit green.

One, who applied lime mixes regularly, as his father and uncle had when I consulted for them, on the same farm 25 years before, had just built a beautiful new big home and left the next day for a two week overseas holiday, while some following the establishment and their followers, or junk products, are in a mess.

One who changed from a consultant's mineral mix containing manganese (a poison - read Elements) to Solminix soluble minerals, had animal health improve dramatically, cows become quieter and mastitis dropped from 30 a day out of 440 cows to one, dung in the rotary decreased from excessive to acceptable, and staff become happy. Their vet was against Solminix because he didn't know or understand minerals. Ask Solminix users, except the few who gullibly listen to high pressure sales people.

Three dairy farmers I know of have recently reduced supplements for almost the same production, with more profit, and less work!

New ryegrasses not lasting while older ones used to

Stocking rates and over-grazing are up and lime applications down (nationally, half what they were 40 years ago) and trace elements are seldom measured in pasture tissue, or applied sufficiently. Grasslands AR37 ryegrasses are not liked by cows, are hard and pull out and have no benefits. Bealey NEA2 (Originated in Spain!) is the most successful ryegrass for decades. Those I've seen remained green.

The comparatively new Kopu and Kopu II will have all died by now making it tough for the grasses. Urea, the gutless drug, halves earthworms, reduces humus in soils so cobalt and selenium leach, and pastures suffer.

Plan

If your area dries out severely until autumn rains in March/April, as well as Pasja or Chicory that regrow and grow crops like the new kales that survive in droughts for grazing just once until it rains. These will vary between areas. Look at what others are doing and ask all suppliers to get the best one - later this year.

Our 100 year rain average for November is 93 mm (3.6 inches). This year we got only 18 mm, so it has been a long dry period after a long wet winter.

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 which will not stop for ages."

Don't blame "global warming" because the small temperature increase until 2005 couldn't cause anything. It is the pollution from factories belching out soot that makes big particles that gather large drops. The large rain drops then leave the clouds as they rise over the first land leaving less moisture for those of us further south like the Waikato and Victoria, Australia.

Norfolk Island and Coromandel rainfalls are up

In 2008 Norfolk Island had no summer, just rain. I checked their rainfall this summer and it is 30% up.

Please don't blame "warming" because the small temperature increase until 2005 has not caused anything. It is the pollution from the Asian factories belching out soot that makes big particles that gather large drops which drop as soon as the clouds rise over hills and mountains, leaving less for those of us further south like Waikato and Victoria in Australia.

The May 2010 newsletter warned about dry summers for the same reason.

In summer we only get rain if from the north west which means no hills to go over between Hamilton and the northwest coast. Don't be deceived by the wind direction which goes round in circles. It is where the low comes from that matters.

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 experienced in the atmosphere and there is clear evidence that more carbon dioxide makes plants grow faster and bigger, and makes them more tolerant to drought, heat and salinity. Current levels are below those for optimum life.

Viv Forbes wrote that 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 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 subscriber. When I consulted for him an hour west of Brisbane in January 2006 when we were on holiday there, I was most impressed with his knowledge, farming practices, skills in many quarters such as even coal mining.

Climate Change

The number of idiots in the world is increasing. They predicted Global Cooling as if it would go on forever, then Global Warming, and told us that low areas would get flooded*, now Climate Change as if it is new and in one direction to benefit the grape growers in some areas. Climate Change is 'Change', not 'Improve' in one area, so for the idiots, the climate could, and has for ages gone both ways.

* Not only are they idiots, but also ignorant in that the Arctic used to melt every summer which allowed the Vikings to sail across it, and Iceland changed, and there was not the flooding anywhere that they tell us is coming. Most of the Arctic ice is floating under water.

The media should take the blame for most of the above garbage because they promoted it. Editors should be well educated people to monitor balanced reporting.

Greed comes into it, in that some have had trips to international conferences and safaris, some made millions out of schemes and some, by getting people to invest in carbon, as done by a Waikato consultant who is very quite now.

Vaughan Jones

So many subscribers can't find these so they are here.

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