

Concentrates

The current extreme shortage of feed and concentrates means that the bottom of barrels are being scraped, at least one of which is extremely bad with dangerous levels of heavy metals causing extremely sick cows. A user had one cow so bad that she had to be shot. Her stomach and liver were a mess. The farmer sent me the concentrates sample which I got analysed in ppm - Mercury 40, Cadmium 45, Manganese 47, Aluminium 30, Lead 15, Glyphosate 50, Copper 80. It looked as if it contained PKE which has killed cows in New Zealand and overseas. Being imported, it doesn't run out so will be added to other feeds.

All these levels are highly toxic. Some showed up in the milk and his somatic cell count nearly doubled.

I know that the somatic cell count can rise after grazing high endophyte grasses like Yatsyn and AR37s, and drop after grazing the old more palatable Concord, Aries or Ellet and Bealey NEA2. If you suffer this, or other causes of somatic cell count variations up or down, please email the feeding information to me. I've learned a lot from farmers and need to continue doing so.

Dairy and meat farmers you are producing food, so must be careful in doing so, and get analyses at least once FROM ALL suppliers of ALL feeds and ALL fertilisers and ALL junk - BEFORE you buy them to put on your land. Then remember that analyses figures change with prices and supply.

Read the chapter on 'Supplements for animals' which is on my 'priority list' so due soon.

Dairy companies should give suppliers and feed suppliers instructions of what they have to do re feeding cows and beef, for example -

No more than two kg of PKE per cow per day.

No more than three ppm of any heavy metal in any feed.

Plus +

I hesitated in publishing the above excessive heavy metal figures in the concentrates because overseas people read our newsletters, but thought it was better to expose and stop their production rather than have the Chinese or others discover them in their milk.

You might have read that Chinese mothers have complained about the low levels of essential iodine in NZ milk. I checked milks and many have none, because all NZ is low. Early immigrants died from low iodine, which Maori avoided by eating lots of sea food.

Naturalea organic milk has 80. I added iodine to Solminix in 1985 and measured the milk of Solminix users and found them to be around the optimum of 80 while neighbours were zero.

In December, and five times since, I emailed and told three staff of Fonterra about how to improve milk quality at no costs to them, but got no response. I'll show what can be done at the field days mentioned below.

In the northern hemisphere, dairy companies measure the urea content of milk and have upper limits. When overseas dairy farmers visit, some ask what our maximum milk urea level is, and I can tell them that urea is so low that it is not measured. This will be because most use no urea, so carry the few who pour it on. In the northern hemisphere when their very expensive protein runs out, some feed urea.

Field days

Many subscribers have asked me to run another field day, but our successful subscribers don't want one on their farm because they feel it is not good enough, or don't want to upset neighbours and/or know that farmers increasing their milk production will reduce the payout.

So we'll run two field days on our home section and adjacent park on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 April from 9 am until the last leave. Bring your refreshments; tea and coffee will be provided.

We have farming, gardening and water-conserving trials running, and you'll be amazed at the soil structure in the park, which has had no lime or fertiliser for 30 years, and yet its soil is better than on most farms. Come and learn why.

You'll also see trials of LimeMagPlus, grazing, plantain and chicory, and Bealey NEA2 grazing (cutting) trials. Cut every two weeks grows a lot more than every four weeks and survives, whereas the four weekly is almost dead.

The days on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 April on our section and adjacent Hillary Park, are open to you all and to your friends from 9 am until the last leave.

There is no charge to encourage many to come and improve their pastures, liming and fertilising, farming, gardening, and the use of spreadsheets.

For directions Google for 37 Eilerslie Avenue, Chedworth, Hamilton 3210 and print it. You can park in the park. If it is wet, please drive carefully, because I'll have to patch it up.

How to use spreadsheets like the money saving Lime Nutrient Planner and Fertiliser Nutrient Planner for your farms will be shown. Bring your pasture analysis typed into the Pasture Minerals Analysis from Free Items and load it into a USB and we'll use some of them to calculate farm requirements.

We'll also show the 'Dairy cow numbers for maximum profit' spreadsheet. Every extra cow costs you \$1,200 per annum to milk and keep, often for less total milk, so can be a dead loss, especially in a typical dry summer. Most who have applied 'Dairy cow numbers for maximum profit' make more profit from fewer cows, and get through dry periods much better, without starving their cows and ruining their pastures. Some of you who have used it produce more milk per cow and make a lot more profit.

Glance at the Testimonials and the 200 chapters on low cost ecological, profitable farming, gardening and Human Health. We'll talk about some and grazing systems and sacrifice paddocks at the field days.

Vaughan Jones
GrazingInfo Ltd