

**Correction**

I apologise for writing in the last newsletter number 95, that the ODPG, which is the Organic Dairy & Pastoral Group, were getting things wrong, because I thought that the organic movement was one body, but it is not, which is unfortunate, because unity and size give power, something the organic dairy group needs.

The NZ Dairy Board proved this for decades of increasing payouts under one marketer and one dollar shares.

Before I tried to register a product organically for a company, I asked others who had registered products and some who had tried and failed, and was told that their rules change, and that the costs are high.

The section I applied to was Bio-Gro. It certifies and registers properties and products, but took a long time, or didn't reply to my questions. With a lack of conclusive answers and fears of frequent changes, I and the company concerned gave up, which is a shame because the product improves the quality of milk, which is deteriorating nationally causing an increase in the number of children and adults becoming allergic to milk.

The Bio-Gro ended in one email with, "The information in this email is subject to standard changes, and is a guide only."

This didn't enthuse us, especially when all the work and cost is for only about 100 NZ organic dairy farmers. I researched and New Zealand produces less organic milk than most other countries. A quarter of all milk consumed in Denmark is organic.

Fonterra is now renewing contracts for some of its organic dairy farmers, less than two years after slashing the number of supplier farmers throughout the North Island, but the news is not so good for Northland suppliers.

In August 2011, Fonterra halved the number of organic suppliers in the North Island because of financial losses in the organics market. Now they say they are trying to get them back.

Why does the ODPG allow this without telling the media?

**Rule changes**

I understand the rule changes because there are countries that impose and change rules, some possibly to help keep New Zealand products out of their markets, which has gone on for ages.

This is a real problem which New Zealand is too soft about. We need some Asians on our negotiating side for lots of exports. It is not only dairy. Lamb quantity to China equals the UK now, but at half the price that the UK pays.

The whole of Fonterra was set up after, mainly USA, accused the NZ Dairy Board of being a monopoly and government run, because it was called a 'Board' like a rabbit or drainage board, and had a monopoly. From 30 years ago I tried to get the Dairy Board to change its name to Co-Op without success. I was then going to America several times a year for years and addressing thousands of farmers, university professors, etc., each time, in all except four states. They all complained about the low selling price of all New Zealand farm products into their markets, and they are right. It is dumping, which is selling below the cost of production.

Fonterra thinks that it can hide behind their auctioning milk that allows buyers to pay what they want to. Nothing else is sold like it. Then the Labour Government weakened and allowed ridiculous rules to be applied when forming Fonterra, to prevent it having any marketing advantage. National then got in, and continued with the dairy farmer crippling policies, which Fonterra has had a job trying to fix, but now never will. At the time I predicated that the NZ dairy industry was doomed, and would have ten companies producing milk and competing within ten years, and it now has. With the sale of Fonterra, the gates are now open for China to keep buying farms and land and develop their dairy industry. In another ten years Fonterra will be small.

**What more can farmers do?**

Over the last 50 years, dairy farmers have doubled pasture production per hectare and per cow, and increased cow numbers per herd from 60 to 380, while the real payout has halved from \$14 (today's value) in 1958 to \$7. No other business has achieved and survived this. Draw a graph, and

in another 50 years farmers will have to pay Fonterra to take their milk away.

Maybe farmers need some Asians negotiating for them, because New Zealand farmers are very nice people, but too nice for their own good, so get criticised almost daily and wrongly by townie news paper reporters about pollution. The Waikato River is much cleaner now than 10 and 50 years ago, while the townies' Hamilton Lake is disgusting and gets worse every year, and is dirtier than any Waikato lake, but is never mentioned by townie reporters.

Hamilton has 25 year old sewerage leaks galore - three on our road of 60 homes. Farmers would be fined \$14,000 for each.

The biggest pollution in it is mercury from industries, and E-coli from town dogs swimming in dog beaches along the Waikato River in Hamilton. Cows drinking from a stream are not as polluting as the dozens of dogs swimming on beaches.

I mention these things to try to drive home to farmers to be warned, to dig their toes in or suffer more.

**Read Farmings' Future and Successful People Do** in [www.vaughanjones.info](http://www.vaughanjones.info)

Please email us ideas you may have and we can enter them in under Farmers' Ideas, for others to read. Say if you would NOT like your name included. Also write to papers.

### **Payout**

Dairy farmers please be careful with your budgeting. Don't believe the promised payout until it is in your bank. Five years ago they promised about the same figure which dropped to \$5.30, causing bankruptcies, suicides and Crafar's loss of 14 farms, which Fonterra should have bought and sold back to them after the payout increased again.

### **Wise after the event?**

No, I was consulting for Crafar's and pleaded with them to send an account to Fonterra for the money lost, because a Fonterra director had visited Crafar's and encouraged them to buy more cows and more land.

Apologies again to the ODPG farmers who do a great job, and don't know where they stand because of costly organic restrictions and an unfaithful buyer that doesn't know what they are doing. For example, last October Fonterra said they were going to increase organic milk production by three times by Christmas, so they don't even know the necessary organic rules that apply - it takes three years to become organic. It actually takes more than three years of no superphosphate and its relatives, of Pasture xxx, DAP, MAP, etc., to get rid of the heavy metals in soils. Incidentally, organic LimeMagPlus is the best at reducing the acidity of soils and locking the availability of heavy metals.

During this research I was told that Crystalyx sell minerals and are Bio-Gro approved.

Do Bio-Gro and organic farmers know that Crystalyx adds 'urea' to their mineral mix which they justified by saying that extra protein is needed for pasture fed animals. Most of us know that protein is already too high in New Zealand clover based pastures.

Also manganese is used in Crystalyx fertilisers. I believe that they are a UK company, so they would not know that this year alone manganese in minerals, concentrates and PKE, killed and caused animals to be shot near Patetonga to put them out of their misery from both toxic concentrates containing PKE and a high manganese mineral mix.

While writing about PKE, a dead monkey arrived on a farm in the PKE, as well as the sheep limb elsewhere that most know about. Buyers of it tolerate its toxic analyses because they are overstocked with starving cows and no alternatives to buy and feed.

The non-users of PKE should dig their toes in to ban its importing for two reasons -

1. It is dangerous, from Foot and Mouth disease countries.

2. It produces extra milk that lowers the auction price to all dairy farmers for no net profit for already overstocked farms that are losing money from being overstocked, so underfeeding their herd.

PKE feeders make no profit from it at less than an \$8 a kg of MS payout. Several farmers who stopped feeding bought feed, made more profit for less work and lower costs - and produced more milk, and with all cows and staff were happier.

One who dropped cow numbers by 10% and stopped all bought feed produced more milk in this last drought season and MADE MORE PROFIT.

I'm now going to mention this.

There are more WRONG things being done now nationwide than ever, I believe because of mercury toxicity affecting brains, as happened to the Roman Empire from lead and mad hatters from mercury. The fall of the Western Empire could be starting from mercury, which is documented to cause illogical thinking.

### **PKE**

PKE is a variable product. Its copper content can be as high as 34 ppm, which is more than twice the optimum for cattle and four times that of sheep. Its excessively high levels of manganese that can be up to 340 ppm, adds to the copper toxicity, so a double whammy occurs.

Googling for 'PKE cow deaths' found it has happened in New Zealand and overseas. An article published in Gribbles Veterinary Newsletter, Labtalk, highlighted the potential for sheep and cattle to develop copper toxicity from it. They reported seven cow deaths from excess copper in two farms. Their blood became very thin and didn't coagulate.

Farmers ask, why do only some animals die? Aren't they lucky.

Animals (and people) can usually survive single toxin excesses or deficiencies, but not always survive double whammies of two toxins and/or infections.

Over-consumption of PKE can occur from trailer bins where all animals can't access it at the same time, so some eat twice as much as others. No more than 2 kg of PKE should be fed per cow per day, but this is impossible to control with bins, because some like it and some don't.

### **Ignorance about Foot & Mouth Disease could be costly**

For the ignorant politicians and their ignorant AgResearch advisers, Foot and Mouth disease entered Japan from China 3.7 years ago in straw for bedding. I used the word 'ignorant' because some of our scientists claim that FMD needs animals, meat etc., to transport it.

### **Bad milk can be improved**

See Dairying > Increase milk profits.

In the same newsletter I mentioned that some milks called 'organic' on their labels, were not. I based this on the high heavy metal levels in them. My wife, I and dozens of friends and subscribers have been badly affected by mercury, cadmium, manganese, and who knows what other pollution. I fear that importers of our dairy products could cause an uproar if they find what I have. I don't want it publicised and told Fonterra, backed with figures, eight months ago and again since then, but they've ignored it all, so what do I do?

If any of you know Fonterra directors or management staff, please get them to read what I've written in the last month.

My getting involved in milk quality was seeking mercury sources and after Chinese mothers expressed concern publicly about low iodine levels in New Zealand milk. I checked, and they were right. I then checked other mineral levels and became worried, so worked on improving all milk, not just organic milk, and have done so by getting farmers to avoid superphosphate and all fertilisers that have any sulphuric acid treated fertilisers, which make heavy metals available, especially when high in them, which is the case in the cheap about \$60? a tonne raw phosphate.

### **Organic**

Unfortunately the word "organic" doesn't make everything perfect. Harraways Organic Oats had gluten in it which made it impure because it must have come from wheat. After I pointed this out to them and they changed the label, but didn't improve the product that used to be free of gluten for three years until July 2012, which then caused our gluten intolerant daughter and me to suffer diarrhoea until finding the cause. See Human Health > Gluten.

New Zealand is the best in the world, but it has to be kept that way, so don't dump anything containing mercury to pollute the country.

Norway's mercury is so high they've banned all handling of mercury. USA suspected something so measured all their 300 rivers. All had more mercury than was safe to drink. Look at the wrong decisions they've made across the nation.

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