

Testimonials Lime & Plant Analyses

1. Maurice Thomas, Victoria, Australia. Ex NZ.

Farmers are doing the same here in Australia as they do in New Zealand, i.e., dosing animals for worms when calcium deficiencies and a lack of earthworms to eat cow dung which breeds parasites, are the real problem. As recommended by Vaughan Jones in New Zealand when we were farming near Taupo, I applied 8,000 kg of agricultural lime per hectare, and then grew clovers that neighbours there and here can't.

2. Michael Nicholas, 25 June 2013.

We survived the drought here and the paddocks with LimePlus were particularly good. As we have gone further into the winter the rest of the farm is struggling with the cooler temps and not growing as much grass as we would like. I will have to wait until the spring before applying more Lime Plus I guess.

Vaughan's reply.

If you apply LimePlus with its serpentine and boron, and deficient elements, based on a ryegrass analysis, you can apply it at any time as long as it goes onto grazed paddocks, not long grass, and is washed in before grazing. This doesn't apply to plain agricultural lime without magnesium which can cause milk fever if applied even three or four months before calving.

To avoid milk fever, never feed any form of calcium. Graze the paddocks with more grass than clover before calving, and more clover after calving. Fertiliser with serpentine and OrganiBOR in LimeMagPlus.

3. Farmer Phil Taylor corrects Peter J Lester of Quantum Soil Testing Laboratory.

From GrazeL International Email Discussion Group. Peter J Lester's Quantum Soil Testing Laboratory criticised Vaughan Jones for pointing out faults in soil testing and Lester's faults in recommending applying manganese in New Zealand because most NZ's wet acid soils are excessively high in Mn which is a cause of stressed cows then being abused by stressed staff who can also be affected by excess Mn in soils, vegetables and waters. Read Manganese in Minerals in Soils, Pasture & Animals, and Manganese in Human Health Minerals.

Phil Taylor wrote.

Dear Peter,

Be careful with your comments. Vaughan Jones is a very well respected New Zealand and international, consultant. I know a number of farmers who have made a large amount of money using his advice.

I used him ages ago after becoming totally confused about fertiliser and fertiliser application on my Taupo ash soils. For more than a decade I had believed the fertiliser science "conventional wisdom" perpetrated by our major research and fertiliser establishments here in NZ. Fertiliser science is very complex and not feeling competent in it, I always took advice, from the most credible consultants, I might add. None of these consultants would give advice without a soil test. So I have spent a lot of money with labs like yours doing several soil tests each year.

After reading these tests, invariably the advice was, more P some K and N out of season to fill the gaps. With a pH of 5.8 no lime was needed! Using these recommendations I have wasted as much money in the last 12 years as it would have cost me to buy the 1,000 acres next door.

The result of this has been few earthworms, 2 inches of root bound thatch, little to no growth in the winter and early spring and areas of inert lifeless soil evidenced by green urine strips running down the yellow, hills standing out because no legume nitrogen cycle was working. The lack of lime and applying water-soluble superphosphate that washed off, caused my P levels to be below 30, K medium and all other soil tested elements and minerals ranged from very high to very low. After application, pastures would give a boost then the farm would go into a lull which was as though the environment had been poisoned.

Animal health problems frustrated me. I had nitrate poisoning in my cattle, ill thrift in the autumn, low copper problems, not enough selenium absorption, and poor sodium intake by the cattle in spite of the fact that sodium levels appeared to be OK in the soil. Still the obsolete advice continued such as more and more superphosphate based on the recommendations from fertiliser company soil tests. There had to be an end to this sort of ill advised expenditure. The cost of the fertiliser was bad enough but the loss from sub-clinical health problems in my cattle was probably the greatest cost.

At a chance meeting with Vaughan Jones, I explained my problems. He recommended 3 tonnes of lime/ha immediately, took a pasture sample and gave a complete recommendation for six months. It was no more expensive than previously. The next two fertiliser applications I spread were also his recipes. The results were that animal health problems almost went. Earthworms and their activity increased. Dung patches disappeared quickly. The post grazing patches are now being eaten. The thatch disappeared and roots now penetrate the soil to 9 inches or more. The small green urine and dung patches have almost gone, without the use of artificial N and hillsides became greener.

Here is something for you to explain to me. During the recent 3 year beef downturn I have not applied any fertiliser, but still have 17 stock units per hectare. Everything goes away prime with cattle within 18 months except for a handful and lambs at around 17 kgs. Recent soil and pasture tests reveal that all levels are up, in spite of no application for the 3 years. Not only that, all the elements including manganese (used to be toxically high because of low calcium) are in the medium to high level and balanced according to the pasture analyses. How can this be happening with no phosphate fertiliser applied for 3 years?

LimePlus improves soils by increasing earthworms all of which make topsoils and pasture roots go deeper, hardpans disappear, and good elements become available. The conclusions I came to are that either the soil tests are not to be believed, or there has been a catalytic response from the Vaughan Jones recommendations of starting with LimePlus and then applying reactive phosphate, elemental sulphur, salt and trace elements.

When it comes to making money in today's beef industry all the recommendations given must give a cost/benefit based on pasture testing and observation. I hadn't had value for money over the years until Vaughan arrived. I look forward to your reply. No reply was received from Quantum Laboratories Ltd.

4. Tania Fernyhough, Walton, Waikato, New Zealand.

I owe you a huge apology Vaughan for doubting your information on needing a first application of 6,000 kg of LimePlus per hectare on our Walton volcanic loam soil. As usual, you and grazinginfo.com were right! We have just dug in that paddock, and the adjacent 3,000 kg paddock, and the roots of the clover and ryegrass in the 6,000 kg/ha paddock were much healthier, deeper and more prolific than in the 3,000 kg/ha paddock. The plants dug in the two paddocks were within 10 metres of each other. Also earthworms have increased amazingly. I am totally converted to 6,000 kg of LimePlus per hectare on deficient land like ours that needed it! The clover in the 6 tonne/ha paddock is astounding, and very good, compared to almost none before. Our maize is the best ever, thanks to chisel ploughing in 6,000 kg of lime per hectare and Triffid from Hortigro Ltd, 164 Manukau Rd Pukekohe 2120. Ph 09 237 1777, sold by Adrian Balle, Ph 27-284- 8982, Email: adrian@hortigro.com

Thanks so much again, without your advice we'd have not much at all which is encouraging - when the milk payout is so low. It has worked wonders after having applied no lime for decades because the soil pH was 6 to 6.2. You have done more for us in six months than anyone else has done for this farm in at least the past 10 years I have been here, in truth more than anyone has done for at least the past 20 years that the family has owned it. Thank you so much for encouraging us to apply two 6,000 kg of LimeMag per hectare twice, and to oversow with the best clovers and plantain.

5. Linda Scrace, Northland. NZ.

I attribute most of the improvement in our cow health to your 3 tonnes of lime, serpentine and trace elements per hectare, plus feeding the cows Solmin. Although the cows are thin, because we had too many cows, they appear to be under less stress and look healthy. I am sure that another application of 3 tonnes/ha of a LimePlus mix will help even more. We have not had one cow with milk fever. You may recall last year we had cows getting cast and dying, and cows getting pneumonia, but not this year. We culled cows with very high somatic cell counts. Our somatic cell count was in the bad grade level of 400,000. At the same time of the year, it is an amazing 135,000!

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This is an example of a typical turn round from dairy farmers who send thanks almost daily.

Despite this and other similar cases, several banks (lied to by fertiliser companies) won't lend to farmers to buy agricultural lime, magnesium and trace elements, but will for phosphate and potassium fertilisers, on soils already with high fixed P (which lime releases) and an excess of K which kills clovers and makes animals sick. LimePlus is a fertiliser, so tell your bank that it is for fertilisers.

Vaughan Jones