

## Testimonials on Solmin

### 1. Tony & Gwen Ashford, Ngatea, Waikato, NZ.

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We asked Vaughan Jones to help us on our peat farm in March 1989 after our farming had gone off the rails. Our peat was dead, which Vaughan explained was from not applying regular surface LimePlus (lime with magnesium and deficient minerals based on ryegrass analyses) and we'd had bloat, milk fever, both spring and facial eczema every year, which Vaughan said was because of the thatch on the acid soils lacking LimePlus so had no earthworms. We got no eczemas within two years of applying LimePlus as recommended by Vaughan. His recommendations included ceasing helicopter weed and facial eczema zinc spraying, and changing from 30% potassic super (0-6-15-8) to a fine reactive phosphate, boron, no potassium, which was too high because of wrong advice based on soil tests and fertiliser companies over-promoting potash at \$800/t rather than lime at \$25/t, with the necessary elements based on ryegrass leaf analyses. Vaughan also suggested dispensing Solmin soluble minerals through an on-line dispenser to all water troughs. Our stressed cows that made milking unpleasant, calmed down and we never looked back. After three years our same number of cows could not fit in the yard because they had become bigger and production had increased by 22% from the same number of 150 cows, with no animal health problems and no milk fever.

Bloat used to be a really bad problem, but since liming and fertilising with reactive phosphate and trace elements including 50 kg of salt per hectare, and feeding Solmin soluble minerals which has 80% salt, we've only had to add bloat oil to our in-line dispenser once for a few weeks, and have not lost a cow with bloat for years.

In October we phoned our vet to come and vaccinate our calves, and he asked what we were doing because we had not contacted him since March, whereas we had been getting him every week. "Using Vaughan Jones" I said.

### 2. From Evan McIntyre in Northern Hawkes Bay.

I have had exceptionally good results with Solmin albeit on a small scale.

My calves I reared had Solmin in their milk from day one and I began adding it into kibbled maize which was the grain meal that I fed them on from weaning, and at much less than a kilo/day. I have only drenched those calves once, more as a precautionary move. Animals that don't get this product scour a lot (Selenium deficiency?)

I have also used it on lambs but again in a very small way.

I have observed large sheep farms here on the East coast feeding maize and barley grain to big mobs of hoggets and ewes during recent droughts and noticed how they very quickly switch on to the supplement, i.e., as soon as they hear the motor bike feeder coming a 1,000 + mob gathers at the gate.

This got me thinking about how I could supplement bought in lambs with Solmin using a similar system or any kind of livestock for that matter. This autumn I bought 3 average 30+kg lambs and supplemented them with Solmin mixed with kibbled maize in a small paddock in front of our house. They were onto it within 3 days and I continued doing this for 4 weeks until I ran out of grass and put them on another small block up the road where they received no supplement for the next 2 months. I estimate them to now be 45 ~ 55 kg hoggets but what I particularly noticed is the sheen you spoke of from the salt. I'm impressed to see the health benefits.

This method of delivering the Solmin is especially effective for sheep which as we know, don't drink a lot of water. It is also very effective in ensuring every animal in the mob gets the supplements. I would like to apply this system to deer which I believe would respond very well.

### 3. Des Holmes of Rukuhia near Hamilton.

I had reared calves on four hectares of peat for decades and they were getting worse each year. Our vet told me that I would have to give up rearing calves because the farm was parasite infested, so, disappointed, I put our property on the market.

My late neighbour said to get Vaughan Jones to have a look at it. Vaughan said to stop applying 30% potassic superphosphate and to start applying LimeMagPlus, based on a ryegrass analyses. He also started me adding Solmin minerals to the water. This all happened in the autumn of 1989. Six months



later the calves reared by hand were nearly as good as those reared on cows and were all as tame as could be, as shown here even with this stranger they had never seen before.

I phoned Vaughan and asked what I could do about my other calves on a Hamilton clay soil block bunching up tightly and milling round because they were being pestered by flies. He suggested I put Solmin minerals in the water troughs. Two weeks later he phoned and said they had settled down and weren't now bunching up and licking each other to try and get sodium.

When they bunch up they mess on each other which attracts flies.

#### **4. Dr David Blom.**

The sheen after adding Solmin to drinking water that shows up in cows, beef and goats, improved our alpacas so much so that our CornerStone Alpacas, 49 Peach Road, Gordonton, Hamilton 3281, phone 07-824 2274, won 11 out of 12 first prizes at the Waikato 2014 summer show. We had applied LimeMagPlus prescribed by Vaughan Jones.

#### **5. Craig Clausen of Gordonton.**

Dairy farmer Craig Clausen of Gordonton told DeLaval that after drenching with Solmin minerals on a trial basis over 12 months, his stock became healthier and quieter and out produced comparative herds not getting the minerals. His father dairy farmed across the road.

#### **6. Brian Dobbs of Gordonton.**

I found that my cows became much quieter, and their droppings became firmer. My young stock on the peat runoff also responded extremely well, and came running each time I added it to the water trough. They licked the bucket and drank more water each time I added Solmin.

#### **7. The late Bill Chynoweth Pukeroro Stud near Cambridge.**

I couldn't believe how quiet our animals became after applying LimeMagPlus and feeding Solmin in the water. In the past they had many warts (a sign of low Ca) which, as with other herds, disappeared after correct LimeMagPlus reduced the high Mn levels in pastures, and feeding Solmin.

These on the left were my cows before Solmin, LimeMagPlus and correct fertilisers, and on the right 18 months later, then produced double the NZ average milk production.



"After installing an on line dispenser on the runoff to supply Solmin, the yearlings became noticeably healthier and tamer (as shown), so we also put one on the home farm.

Conception rate for the heifers increased from 90% to 100%, more than paying for the Solmin.

A leaking pipe which caused the calves to go without Solmin for a few weeks during which time they drank rain water from puddles.

They lost their bloom and looked nearly as bad as average stock one sees around, reinforcing our knowledge that Solmin is essential.

#### **8. Mike and Shiralee Anderson, Huntly, NZ.**

Seeing great results using your soluble minerals.

We've Serpentine limed the whole farm this year and will be continuing with your program annually.

Many Thanks.

## **9. Bryce Wilson of Te Awamutu.**

started using Solmin is February 1991, and some cows which had not been milking well, and not coming in with tight udders, within a month started coming in tighter and performing better than they had all season, and his calves changed from a poor looking mob to an excellent bunch in two months.

The cows and calves became much quieter. Instead of walking around in a bunch and being unsettled like I see many doing, they just grazed, spread out, and lay down.

“I hardly use a vet now, mastitis has disappeared and 96% cycled in the first three weeks of mating.

“We got the vet once when we brought the heifers home from grazing, and they suffered ketosis when changed from haylage to grass and hay, once to calve a cow, and once to put in a few CIDRs, so that's only three times for the whole year.

“Previously we needed the vet almost every week during calving, and had only about 50% to 60% cycling.

Bryce believes that his cows eat less since getting Solminix.

A neighbour and the AI technician have remarked on how quiet his cows are, and how little dung there is in the yard.

“Our animal health bill was \$14,000, now, including Solmin, it is \$3,000 a year.

Production has gone from 16,000 to 20,000 kg MS in one year. Part of this increased production is also attributed to the fact that I am using more lime, and using reactive phosphate fertiliser with trace elements but no potash now.

## **10. Gary and Carol Self.**

Our 240 calves were shivering in the cold at our high altitude near Ngaroma, so we started feeding Solmin minerals to supply the salt and minerals necessary for animals to control their body temperature.

“Within two days the shivering stopped and the calves got out and grazed more, and started doing better”, said Gary.

“We then fed it to our dairy beef bulls and have never had faster growth and a higher first draft rate.”



## **11. Tania Fernyhough.**

I just thought I'd let you know how good our Holstein/Friesian protein and fat %'s are since starting on Solmin. The fat is about 4.8% and protein 3.7%, up from about 4.5% fat and 3.65% protein. We are really impressed, and know that while there are cows out there doing much better milk solids % than us, it is a great result based on the past. So thank you, once again, for your great advice!

## **12. Barry Brunton Rukuhia Solmin Dispensing Systems.**

Our stock buyer near Hamilton, bought beef heifers for NZ\$550. A quarter were facial eczema damaged. They were given 0.008% (instead of 0.006%) of their weight in Solmin in the drinking water, and were grazed correctly limed and fertilised pasture and grew and went away prime in the normal time of late October 2010 for NZ\$940 each.

A dairy farmer, Bryce Wilson of Te Kawa, Waikato, drenched his calves repeatedly, but still had very poor calves, two of which were really bad. Two months after applying 3,000 kg per hectare of CalciumMagPlus containing 50 kg per hectare of salt, to reduce his extremely high potassium level of 4% in pasture tissue, and with reactive phosphate plus other deficient trace elements, and feeding Solmin minerals, all calves improved dramatically. The worst two calves had improved to a satisfactory size - with no more drenching.

## **13. Sue and Ian Dobbs, Waikato, NZ.**

In the 1980s our daughter and son in law, Sue and Ian Dobbs, share farmed for us on consolidated peat on Greenhill Road, just east of Hamilton, and reared 160 calves each year. After weaning, they divided them into two mobs, and gave one mob Solmin minerals. The two mobs were moved daily through one hectare paddocks. This mob didn't get minerals so suffered deficiency symptoms of runny eyes, dry noses, less saliva, dry hair, scald between their toes, hair growing on the tops of their necks, and in some cases pot bellies. See Symptoms & Causes in Animals.

After two months Ian noticed that, not only did the Solmin minerals mob look and grow better, they were also more contented, spread over the paddock more, were bigger, didn't need drenching for worms and ate less pasture, leaving higher DM residuals. He then gave Solmin minerals to both mobs.

Vaughan then sold the recipe to DeLaval who called it Solminix.

#### **14. Bill Gallagher, Managing Director, Gallagher Group, NZ.**

Vaughan developed and then ran many chisel ploughing, fertilising and pasture trials and field days on the Gallagher Demonstration Farm, which were admired by many. We had no facial eczema or animal health problems thanks to Vaughan's adequate liming, correct fertilising, and Solmin minerals.

These two

#### **15. Gary Wilson, Dairy Farmer, Matamata, Waikato, NZ.**

While dairy farming near Matamata I suffered bad bloat for decades and was a Ruakura bloat monitoring farm; but after I changed from 30% potassic super to Vaughan's recommendations of the best reactive phosphate, elemental sulphur, salt, trace elements and lime as needed based on pasture analyses, and feeding Solmin minerals in the drinking water, bloat disappeared completely, production increased, and pastures improved from being open and sparse with gaps, to being dense clover based. Ruakura gave up our farm because there was no more bloat to monitor! My calves looked and grew better than ever, with much less or no worm drenching. [Gary now farms in Canterbury.]

#### **16. Ian McDonald, Patetonga, Waikato, NZ.**

Vaughan Jones became our farm advisor in 1991. I was interested in Vaughan's 'complete picture approach', using lime and fertiliser recommendations (based on his pasture tissue mineral analyses Spreadsheet) to give better soils, animal health, per-cow performance and farm profitability. Milk fever dropped from thirty to one each year-the same cow. From the ryegrass analyses, Vaughan made recommendations based on lime, Sechura or Gafsa reactive phosphates and trace elements-all slow-release products. Our animal health improved with the aid of Solmin. Profitability improved greatly: we had lower vet bills, better cow fertility and per cow performance. Soil condition improved with greater numbers of earthworms.

#### **17. Margaret Porteous, Organic Dairy Farmer, Waikato, NZ.**

I can definitely see the benefits of having good organic fertiliser recommendations as prescribed by Vaughan Jones. Our pastures are much more healthy and animal health has been very good this year. Although this spring pasture growth has been very sluggish due to colder and cloudier weather than normal, our pastures, although not with a great surplus of grass, look denser and greener compared to neighbouring properties. My neighbour commented on how healthy our pastures were. Your cattle seem so much more contented.

Being organic, I was not allowed to feed Solmin, so added approved seaweeds, etc., which made the troughs and pipes dirty. Fonterra stopped collecting our organic milk after about 15 years, so we have changed to dry stock.

#### **18. Grant McGregor, Sharemilker, Taupiri, Waikato, NZ.**

Throughout my farming career I have been exposed to a wide variety of farm management strategies and practices. Those practices that have had the greatest impact for us are those that Vaughan Jones has made. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience to pass onto those who are willing to listen. His strong database and trial results help to endorse his views.

We have had three sharemilking positions over 14 years on peat. One owner insisted on the establishment's ideas, that set us back. The other two were Vaughan's clients, wherein we improved the peat and pastures, increased production and profits significantly, and, if I may add, with far less stress.

Anyone reading through Vaughan's views is, I am sure, going to find useful items to adopt. Don't be frightened to put those ideas into practice - especially pasture herbage analysis before liming or fertilising to correct soil levels, and feeding balanced minerals to animals. The satisfaction gained from seeing peat improve and allowing stock to perform to their optimum potential - without the current craze of high stocking - are the rewards we have attained from utilising Vaughan's experience.

**19. Peter Garrick, Coromandel Peninsula. May 2016**

Within two months of starting your Solminix with salt, my SCC improved by 7%, from a yearly average of 87,000 last year to 81,000 this year.

My herd got a beautiful sheen, lovely wet noses and good saliva, many more with gaps under their tails, less muck on tails, better hair, better cow flow, heads are up, i.e., all the symptoms you foretold. Thanks for your advice.