

## Testimonials USA & Canada

### 1. Emily Carlson & Richard Norris, Evergreen Valley Graziers, Vermont, USA.

Thank you very much Vaughan for all your advice. Our farm has really benefitted from it. In 1992 using confinement, our total net income was \$15,176 with 16,042 milk lbs per cow. This increased dramatically in 1996 to a total net income of \$52,305 thanks to changing to 85% grazing.

### 2. Frank Rhinehart, Phillipsburg, USA.

I had the good fortune of hearing Vaughan when in New Zealand on an SGF tour in 1992. He has more pasture and grazing knowledge than 20 University professors put together. I learned a great deal from our trip to NZ and you with SGF. My wife and I would love to do it again. I follow your writing with great interest.

### 3. Austin Moore, North Whitfield, Maine, USA.

I attended one of Vaughan's seminars in 1982 and changed to grazing and seasonal milking in 1983. I loved it and started making higher profits. I now have time to watch my cows graze and drink and my heifers grow.

### 4. Bargyla Rateaver, California, USA.

Again I am flabbergasted at all you know. I just can't wait for your books. WHEN will I get them? Money no object-I don't care, I just want to learn. Brassica toxicity That ties in with what I said I had read, that the cabbage family eaten raw will cause thyroid (iodine metabolism) trouble.--true apparently for animals as for people. I had not thought of Mr. Jones' remedy--to give iodine, but I should have, since that is what human remedy is. I once read an account in Reader's Digest, by a man, who said the same thing--goitrogens from cole plants. I was surprised to read that, since most MDs and vets seem to not know it. Then another man, in response to my remark, said that yes, it was true for animals too. But leave it to Vaughn Jones know-how I wish I had his knowledge, so vast.

### 5. Brad Cowan, Astoria, Oregon, USA.

Seven years ago we were milking 70 cows taking 7 hours a day on a crappy farm with a small parlour and Vaughan Jones, who has helped us an incredible amount over the years, suggested a move to the better climate and better soils of the NW coast. In Oregon, I'm now milking 700 grazing cows in a New Zealand designed rotary on pasture and paying the bills. I do know that the closer we can get to a total NZ system, the more profitable we are. Our cattle broker told us that one of the largest dairies in Idaho is losing money fast. I now have about 300 tons of lime on hand and am increasing applications all the time. When I limed after your first trip here we were not sure if we saw a response. Now we can see it as I sit on my tractor harvesting three times as much silage per acre as I ever had before.

Vaughan Jones replies: This shows the same as in New Zealand, that farmers have not applied enough lime for decades after which many farms need four or eight tonnes per hectare, then four tonnes every year for two years. Read Elements > Calcium, or at least look at the first photo and then the 51 benefits of lime and its synergisms.

#### Brad wrote again later:

" I got Vaughan to come up here to help my friends, the Smith brothers, in Canada from bankruptcy. He got them to sell 300 of their 600 cows, and pay off debt, because they grew only enough pasture to feed 300, and Vaughan showed them with his spreadsheets how they were losing money on bought feed. The same is happening all over New Zealand so they buy PKE, which makes no net profit for them." Brad Cowan.

Vaughan Jones replies: Helping northern hemisphere dairy farmers by changing them from confinement to grazing, reduces their total milk production which is good for them and for New Zealand, and increases their profits because they don't have to buy feed. Thousands have made the change.

### 6. Jon Gammon, Texas, USA.

Daniel J. Stoltzpus, Pennsylvania, called and got around to talking about advice he had received in the past and mentioned a conference he went to several years ago where many people were on a panel

or some such. He said he went around to each of them after the conference and they would all give him a piece of advice here and there but when he got to you that you thoroughly answered each question and really cared that he understood. He said it was the best consulting experience he had ever had and that the advice still worked.

#### **7. Henry Swayze of Tunbridge, Vermont, USA.**

I met with Vaughan in 1981 and was convinced to change from winter housing my ewes to 100% grazing. I was able to increase my flock size from 50 ewes with lambs (limited by barn size) to several hundred. My workload and costs dropped and my profits increased. My pastures and animal health improved. Pneumonia and feet problems almost vanished. Farming became a pleasure and more valuable.

#### **8. Franks Farm, Long Island, New York, USA.**

Just wanted to thank Vaughan Jones for posting his comments for the newbies. Wow...just what I've been looking for! Great stuff! I've been a learnin' and a searchin' for quite sometime now and many of his remarks are top of mind. I've never met Vaughan but have read a good deal about his methods.

Just hope that he will continue to share his insights with many who wish to incorporate those methods into their pasture operations.

#### **9. Mike Gingrich, Dodgeville, Wisconsin, USA.**

Thanks for all your useful postings over the years, your postings have been very useful to me. If you are traveling in the U.S. please contact me. I would love to show you our farm and around this area (south-west Wisconsin).

#### **10. Darrin & Jenny Drake, Hickman, Tennessee, USA.**

Vaughan, thanks for offering a knowledgeable point of view from someone with experience and not being a (whatever) as some others are.

#### **11. Michele Gale-Sinex, Communications Manager, UW-Madison College of Ag and Life Sciences, USA.**

Vaughan, just wanted to say thanks for your posting. Don't know whether people paid attention. But you hit the bull's-eye on so many things.

#### **12. Dave Gneiser, Berlin, Wisconsin, USA.**

Wow, you presented a whole semester in this post from the "Jones School of Advanced Grazing". I may be able to pass your second grade this spring. So much yet to learn. Again congrats on a super post.

#### **13. Bill Douglass, Oakdale, California, USA.**

I appreciate Vaughan Jones' article on cleaning up the farm. We are currently trying to dairy and clean up 30 years' worth.

#### **14. Jim Green, University of North Carolina lecturer, USA.**

Vaughan, thanks for the prompt reply. I remember your first seminar here. I also remember doubting your comment on "the number of paddocks" on a farm determines how well one uses the forage, etc. Thanks so much for prompting me to question many things.

I just think it's great that you would advise Dave F and the rest of us about the Foremost Farms encroachment on grazing profitability. Should your travels ever take you to the USA again, you would be most welcome here, if time would permit.

#### **16. Dr Marco Turco, SUNY at Plattsburgh, Organic Farming.**

Thank you for welcoming me to your Newsletters.

I'm not surprised the Cornell professors took cause to your talk. It is no secret that American Land Grant Universities like Cornell and research sites like the W.H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute are carrying out Agri-business funded research and studies. Raises questions about the 'bias' of their findings of course. Shhh! While their agendas are directed at Maximising, yours are wisely aimed at

Optimising. In the world of Natural Ecosystems the premise is to Optimise, but American agriculture - caught in the Debt Traps encouraged by College and State extension - has decided to wage war on Nature.

There seem to be people in NZ too who are influencing American farmers AGAINST you - people like NZ veterinarian Dr Craig Thomas - who is telling farmers here that you don't know what you are talking about and no-one in NZ gives you any credibility. With a little investigation the discovery is that he is trying to set himself up here as an authority on NZ livestock agriculture, notably to people without any real knowledge of farming.

In America though there is a small, yet rising tide of young farmers - most without an agricultural upbringing - who are recognising the validity and 'truth' of the methods and techniques you encourage. I make no excuse for teaching your approach in my university farming courses, and not only teach them but actually apply them in practice on my own Certified Grass Fed sheep operation. Keep up the good, and vital work you do. The future of food production both here in the USA and on a global scale rest on the sustainable protocols you give us.

#### **17. P. Andeson, Idaho, USA.**

I really like the info you present and can't wait to take a look when I get home. OMG! It's like you understand my mind! You seem to know so much about things. This is a great website with outstanding reading. It is awesome and I constantly come across something new & different.

#### **18. Bernie, USA**

Hope the snow trip was fun, anticipating that you read this when you get back. Just wanted to say I always look forward to your posts. Thanks for your contributions.

#### **19. Warren, Athens, Tennessee, USA**

I can only say thank you for an education which I could not get elsewhere from anyone with your humble, honest approach. Thank you again Mr Jones. As usual your reply has been right on the mark for my often asked beginner's questions.

#### **20. Jake, Tennessee, USA.**

I have read your long and very interesting postings several times and learned a lot from the material. Thank you for taking the time to compose all of that extensive material into something very informative, and sharing it with all of us. Your efforts are appreciated.

#### **21. From Jon Alan Gammon & Daniel J. Stoltzpus Pennsylvania..**

Called and got around to talking about advice he had received in the past and mentioned a conference he went to several years ago where a lot of people were on a panel or some such. He said he went around to each of them after the conference and they would all give him a piece of advice here and there but when he got to you that you thoroughly answered each question and really cared that he understood. He said it was the best consulting experience he had ever had and that the advice still worked.

#### **22. Andy Lyon, PA, USA.**

You must get lot of messages from all over. I just hope this one caught your eye and you have time to reply. Also just want to say your info given on graze-l has greatly improved my technical know-how on grazing management. Its fair to say your info as well as other gleanings from graze-l are definitely going to be a great help in keeping feed costs down so my dairy can thrive. So I want to thank you, you are to a large degree selflessly doing US dairying a great service, though some parties many be presently put off by you challenging the status quo.

#### **23. Lisa McCrory Vermont, USA.**

Thank you for your comments on healthy animals and organic farming as a tool. I agree with you 100% and am glad that someone so eloquent could 'take the words right out of my mouth'. I enjoy reading all your contributions to the Graze-l.

#### **24. Brush Creek Farm, USA.**

I learned a great deal from our trip to NZ and you with SGF. My wife and I would love to do it again. I read your messages in graze-I with great interest.

#### **25. Dennis Lindell, Grass Dairy Farmer, Harmony, MN, USA.**

Thanks for advising us about the Foremost Farms encroachment on grazing profitability. Should your travels ever take you to the USA again, you would be most welcome here.

#### **26. Jason Campbell, Clear Spring, Maryland, USA.**

I have followed your writing with much interest. You seem to have very good "cow side" knowledge, and I would like to ask many more some questions of you.

#### **27. Bob Gjerdingen, USA.**

I smiled when I recently saw someone refer to Vaughan as a "primo huomo". What else would be a better title for one of the greatest grazing consultants in the last 40 years? In my opinion, we have been fortunate to have his input, and I have saved much of his work.

#### **28. Anonymous.**

Write re my USA meal recommendation gluten

Then I read one of Vaughan Jones's Grazinginfo.com Newsletters that was talking about excessive manganese making cows and staff who were drinking their milk high in manganese, because an American influenced consultant was recommending manganese in fertilisers and in a soluble mineral mix, so all were very agitated and irritable.

I thought, "Crikey, I think I might be a cranky cow," and it turned out the pills from the USA were over 17 times the RDI of manganese, so I promptly threw all pills in the bin, started eating normally again and went back to researching.

Thankfully my anger problem resolved itself quite quickly after that.

Eventually, it turns out I had the testosterone level of an 80 year old and felt like one, the growth hormone level of an 80 year old, no magnesium in my blood and very little DHEA.

The low testosterone meant that my brain wouldn't function properly hence it felt like I had Alzheimer's, and also meant that every time I used my muscles they would break. Then because I had no growth hormone my body couldn't repair itself again.

So I applied natural testosterone cream to hairless parts of my body and injected growth hormone once a day, and took DHEA and another handful of pills to support my body's rebuilding process.

My brain began function a lot better. My memory is slowly returning and I am not curling up into a foetal position every time any pressure comes on. I even felt like working on some days.

So why were my hormone levels so out of whack you might ask? Well it turns out that once you hit the age of 30 all of your hormone levels, including testosterone, begin to drop off. Stress is the biggest killer (I have had an extremely stressful work life since I was about 19 years old), but also smoking, too much sugar and processed foods, alcohol, toxins, lack of sleep, etc.

What have I learnt from this-

- Regular doctors are just sales agents for the pharmaceutical companies and pretty much useless, unless you have something simple like a broken leg.

- Never give up on your health, if something isn't working, go back to the drawing board, there is more info on the internet than you can poke a stick at, but don't get sucked into scams.

- Too much manganese will make you lose your rag, and brain.

- Testosterone helps men in more ways than just improve their affection.