

Summary of Presentation to Alpaca Conference 2008 by Vaughan Jones

To get the best out of grazing animals we must ensure that pastures are appropriate and contain all the elements needed for the animals concerned to add to their health and production, and add profit to your operation.

The essentials in order of importance include -

- Drain the wet areas.
- Apply agricultural lime, based on pasture calcium levels, not just on pH, which have not since since I could see was wrong.
- Sow or oversow using the best pasture species. If cultivating, use a chisel plough to go deep and to bring up some subsoil which has more minerals than the typically farmed-out top 15 cm.
- Analyse the 17 minerals in pasture tissue and fertilise accordingly.
- Sow & oversow the appropriate clovers into pastures for late pregnancy, rearing and for young growing Alpacas, and apply nitrogen only when essential, which is seldom with Alpacas on New Zealand pastures.
- For adequate fibre and low protein, sow Wana and/or Tekapo prostrate cocksfoots in pastures.
- Subdivide the farm and pipe water to each paddock. Earth all troughs to prevent shocks.
- Supply Solmin in the drinking water and feed supplements under fence lines.
- Budget for profits using a spreadsheet from www.grazinginfo.com

The above will be elaborated on at the conference.

Before the conference see www.grazinginfo.com which gives full information on most of the above and then you can come with any questions you may have.

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