

Newsletter 50

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The two most serious factors still adversely affecting grazing animal profits, are calcium lower than 0.8% in ryegrass leaves and stems (tissue), and selenium lower than 0.3 ppm.

99% of the farms I have visited or got analyses from show low calcium (Ca), and have done for decades. Yes, only 5 of 500 farms had enough Ca. After liming and applying its synergisms of serpentine for magnesium (23%) and its marine trace elements, salt, cobalt, elemental fine Saudi sulphur (100%S), Ulexite slow release (11% boron) and cobalt sulphate (21% Co), and whatever other elements are deficient on the farms concerned, all improved their soils, pastures, animal health and well being - went from stressed to happiness.

You might wonder why salt. Ca and sodium applied when low reduce the leaching of cobalt, selenium and other water soluble elements. Neither of these two elements will increase in pasture analyses until calcium levels are where they should be. See the Pasture Analysis spreadsheet in Free Items.

Despite this, and the success within two months of applying three or four tonnes per hectare of LimeMag with its synergisms at a lower cost than typical fertiliser, some farmers and consultants still don't even measure pasture calcium and pasture selenium levels.

Before doing a pasture sample please read Pastures > Sampling & Reading Tissue to get accurate useful figures not influenced by soil adversely affecting the figures, or by taking only ryegrass leaf tips which have 10% less calcium than stems.

The Pasture Mineral Analysis spreadsheet is so important that it is free. Type your pasture analyses figures from Hills Laboratory into it to see the effects from elements that are low or high.

Those or you who were brought up with soil testing, try doing a fertiliser mix based on a pasture analysis and then see if information from a soil test requires a change - it won't. I've done this many times over decades for farmers and they have agreed and saved themselves thousands of dollars and increased production of pasture and animal production, because of the more accurate figures.

Even soil pH is not accurate because it is affected by so many things. It is done to decide lime requirements, but is of no use for this so has lost thousands of farmers millions of dollars in total.

Do a pasture analysis now and enter the figures into a free Pasture Mineral Analysis spreadsheet and email it to me with your number of hectares (acres in USA) and I'll enter it into the Pasture Analysis Records spreadsheet and return it with a fertiliser and/or lime recommendation. The Records spreadsheet will allow you to see trends and results over the years and make adjustments.

You'll see quick changes in pasture analyses following applications, something you won't see with soil tests, because soils take much longer to show any effect. Read Elements > Calcium and Phosphorus, the two main growth elements and Selenium the main health one.

Apply four tonnes of LimeMag and trace elements as per the Lime Nutrient Planner now, to all pastures with a ryegrass figure lower than 0.5% Calcium, and by late December the increased clovers and pasture growth will be much more than from urea, or any other fertiliser. If P is below 0.3% apply it as per Fertiliser Nutrient Planner, but remember that four tonnes of LimeMag per hectare with its synergisms has increased pasture P levels from 3.5 to 5% for a fraction the cost of buying P, which doesn't improve the soil health or pasture growth, like LimeMag does.

Best of all, the earthworm numbers will increase, be healthier and eat the thatch at the base of most pastures which is where the facial eczema spores breed. Zinc controlling facial eczema is a cost, while LimeMag and synergisms make a profit and get rid of the cause. See Elements > Calcium for its 50 benefits.

Which Nitrogen

There are now many artificial nitrogens. If any of you have done comparative cost/yield trials please send me the results. All mine and client comparisons I know of between urea and ammonium sulphate (sulphate of ammonia) showed the latter lasted much longer and yielded slightly more, without reducing earthworm numbers, which urea does. Ammo (half urea and half SoA) has given better overall results. Please send me your findings.

Spreadsheets

Many spreadsheets have been updated and loaded. You can tell by the dates. Some have only minor

changes.