

My Field Days combining with New Zealand Fieldays

To make it easier for farmers well away from Hamilton to attend one of my field days, I'm planning to combine with the NZ Agricultural Fieldays by running mine at 2.30 pm on your most popular of Thursday 14th or Friday 15th or both if required, on two dairy farms at Puketaha, showing lime-plus benefits, and pasture varieties on Hamilton's eastern boundary. Then at our home 2 km away to see earthworm breeding and hybrid benefits, and vegetable growing, followed by using spreadsheets to calculate lime-plus mixtures, Fertiliser Nutrient Planner, and the number of cows to milk for maximum profits that Lincoln university is promoting after having had mine for 20 years. This will be from about 4.30 pm on a large screen in our double garage, which is limited to 30 people, so will have to be done on a first booked basis, or run twice if necessary. If over-booked we will email tickets to the first to book.

It will mean your leaving the Fieldays at 2 pm and coming to Puketaha via SH 1, which takes about half an hour from when you are in your car. It would take an hour if leaving at 4 pm.

We need to know how many will come, so please reply after deleting one below, or leave both in if either one is OK.

Thursday 14th 2.30 pm to 5 pm or later.

or Friday 15th 2.30 pm to 5 pm or later.

The most popular date and exact location will be emailed to you. If there is enough demand, we can do them on both days.

Purchasing small amounts of lime-plus

Lime-plus, based on pasture analysis, usually comes in ten, twenty or thirty tonne bulk loads. There are several lifestylers and small farmers wanting between a tonne and four tonnes of lime-plus delivered. This can possibly be done in half tonne bags, which will have to be unloaded, which may mean getting it transported and offloaded from a Hiab truck, or a ten tonne tip truck, but two people plus the driver will be needed to pull them off the truck. If you would like some in half tonne bags, please email me as soon as possible so we can try to group them.

Bagged lime costs more than bulk, so lifestylers and small farmers should ask neighbours if they need some, with the aim of ten tonne loads between them.

Lime-plus in the South Island

Farmers from parts of the South Island are wanting lime-plus, so I would like the names and addresses of lime companies that mix serpentine and trace elements into lime. Please help them by telling us their names and email addresses. Thanks.

Any lime company that mixes can do it. Buyers have to use our Lime Nutrient Planner spreadsheet, or, if calcium is high enough in pasture tissue analyses, use the Fertiliser Nutrient Planner for a Gafsa or other reactive phosphate based fertiliser mix. Then send it and your pasture analysis figures to me to check your recommendation. The Planner software can't be done accurately and completely from soil s which don't give levels of all trace elements, so please don't send them to us.

Read Elements > Calcium, Phosphorus, Magnesium and Boron, before using the Planners.

Pelleted fertilisers and limes

My criticism of some 'fine' products in Newsletter 68 has made some ask about pelleted fertilisers and limes. The theory of these is excellent, and I have been working with companies on this. The advantages are wider spreads, to reduce spreading costs, and wider spreads over hills and slopes, no waste in dust, no complaints about dust on clothes lines, and homes that collect rain water for drinking.

However, elemental 100% sulphur in a granule form is not satisfactory when mixed with reactive phosphates, because reactive phosphates, without sulphur in close contact, take longer to become available to plants. Gafsa mixed with fine elemental 100% sulphur is the cheapest and best form of phosphate in acid soils with a pH of 6.4 or lower.

Please remember to reply re our coming field days.

Vaughan Jones

GrazingInfo Ltd