

**Dairy payout**

It's nice starting with good news of forecast milk payouts around \$7/kg of milk solids, but none of you will have forgotten the promise of \$8 a few years ago, that it didn't reach, and fell to \$5.20 so broke many farmers and caused Crafars to loose their 14 farms to Chinese.

**Sympathies**

Our feelings go to our USA subscribers and all there who have been so dreadfully affected by the recent and previous tornadoes. Like the Christchurch earthquake sufferers, what could be more cruel and make people feel more depressed and hopeless. So we wish you all a very speedy and total recovery.

**Now too wet!**

No wonder some farmers get accused by our townies of never being happy. A month ago it was too dry, now it is too wet, here anyway. 30 mm poured down a few nights ago onto already wet soils. I hope the remaining dry areas now have enough.

**Field days held here on 26 and 27 April 2013**

These went well with a good discussion on the topic of farming in dry summers and many other things. The quality of those present made up for the small number on both days. Rain, which could have kept some away, was not a problem and if necessary we could have spent more time in our double garage seeing how to use spreadsheets on the 3 m wide screen.

My explaining how to use them made me streamline them for easier use. If you have downloaded them in the past, please do so again to get these updated versions of Lime Nutrient Planner and Fertiliser Nutrient Planner.

The full report was sent to the media, but was good news solutions, so mostly ignored. See the Field days chapter after I've had time to finish it.

**DairyNZ**

After the rain started in late April, DairyNZ\* recommended Applying Urea on the 12.35 pm National Farming Radio program. It shows their complete lack of practical knowledge and skills, with no care for the farmers or health of the country. I can't think of worse advice. Good soils with adequate LimeMagPlus, have plenty of earthworms and soil organisms, releasing nitrogen continuously, which is made most of the year in the Waikato (no frozen soils) and even increases in soils over dry periods. Evidence of this is the rapid growth here since the rain - without polluting urea. On soils fed with LimeMagPlus, there will be ample pasture for winter because it is still growing fast. The soil is still warm after the months of heating, so severe frosts are unlikely for a while.

\* The DairyNZ Scott farm on Vale Road, Newstead, is a disgraceful confirmation of their lack of practical skills and knowledge. It is dreadfully under-limed, under-drained, urea-fed partly peat, so has no clovers. At a field day there, a top so called 'scientist' who I've known for 25 years, complained about how hard peat was to farm. I admit it takes simple skills of drain, LimeMagPlus, and don't over-stock. Auriel and I beat all Waikato dairy farmers in 1959 winning the most improved dairy farm in the Waikato so got a week in Wellington with the wonderful NZ Dairy Board and the NZ Dairy Exporter, with other provincial winners. Also many peat farmers won several NZ Agricultural Fielddays Farms of the Year over decades against all soil types.

Some USA and one Australian scientist belong to GrazingInfo.com but no New Zealand ones do. It has a hundred pages on Peat.

Some vets know from experience that if all farmers joined and applied the information in GrazingInfo, most vets would close down as could DairyNZ, saving the average dairy farmer about \$12,000 a year. The DairyNZ compulsory fees are making farmers complain, "This comes off our milk income for no benefit to us."

They are right. NZ Dairy information is wordy (farmers don't have time to read scrolls of flowery 'nothings' which are often wrong, such as, "Apply more urea." 90% of farms are deficient in calcium and its synergisms. The Waikato Regional Council is trying hard to reduce the application of too much nitrogen, but DairyNZ in their towny cocoon, would not know that.

Some kind farmers may say that AgResearch studied Methane for a few years. I agree, but they found out nothing of any use, made the mistake of using USA grain-fed cow figures which are higher than ours that are grazing pastures naturally, which doesn't

make as much methane. People also exhale methane, so the high population countries produce more than New Zealand does. The so called methane research cost us \$5 million, but New Zealand's **total** methane production from all sources is 0.34% of global methane, so is nothing. DairyNZ, most scientists and those looking for scientific employment, like the global warmers still do, would not know or believe our low figure. The northern hemisphere jealous stirrers don't know that -

1. 90% of NZ's natural pasture fed beef and lamb, feeds people in other countries.
2. NZ 100% grazing pasture-fed milk and meat are healthier than from grain.
3. Grain fed meat is dearer than pasture fed and takes six times more fuel per kg of meat. See Beef Profiting.

### **Federated Farmers**

This brings us to a serious matter for New Zealand. Most industries and organisations, even the NZ medical one, have a division that looks after their members and penalises members who break their rules, gives it a bad name, etc. Farmers have Federated Farmers which doesn't control farmers in any way, so local bodies like Waikato Regional Council have to employ staff to patrol offending farms, sometimes by expensive air surveillance! Their fines are high, sometimes just because of genuine mistakes, sometimes by staff or by ratchet driven irrigators that stalled and polluted an area. Worst of all, one was fined after he had spent tens of thousands of dollars on improvements, and sudden heavy rain caused some effluent to run over a low spot. There are many other examples.

What are most farmers, Federated Farmers and Waikato Regional Council doing on a helpful, practical basis to reduce pollution in their industry? Do they encourage or make it a law that all sheds must install a diversion system for rain water that only 27% now have, so 73% have a lot more water to spread at a cost, sometimes on already water logged pastures, which cause pollution.

Waikato Regional Council puts an excess amount of effort into dairy effluent management, but it is only 8% of the total cow manure produced each day, which in dry conditions is most of the year, so is an asset growing more pasture, without pollution.

The Resource Management Act figures in May 2004 showed that about one third of councils do not specify a nitrogen loading limit, one-third specify 150 kgN/ha/yr, and one third specify 200 kgN/ha/yr. One council, EBOP, uses a nitrogen loading limit of 300 kgN/ha/yr. So one farmer should be penalised after applying half the amount allowed by another. The best solution is to improve the soils so that pasture roots go down to 30 cm rather than to only 15 cm as on most farms. See Soils, Cultivation, Elements > Calcium, and more in other chapters.

### **Farmers are fined while townies pollute much more, and are NEVER fined**

While the above chapter shows RMA is a farce, Hamilton City Council has human effluent coming out of their sewerage system in front of our house, during heavy rain, which is many times a year, for 14 years that I know of. I've told several staff and a councillor. They would not believe me so, I took a photo. There have been others. Sewerage connections from three out of a dozen homes on our avenue have been leaking sewerage that killed trees on our property and causing sewerage to seep down to underground water and the Waikato River. Apparently there are hundreds of these faulty joins in Hamilton. Farmers would be fined \$14,000 for each, and more until repaired. It takes a day to repair each one which was made by knocking a hole in the main pipe, pointing the pipe from the house at the hole, and covering it with soil. Obviously there were no inspectors, as with the infamous coal mine.

Hamilton's lake is filthy and worse than any other I've seen, all from urban pollution. We used to swim in it 25 years ago. Now if you touch the water, people are warned to wash their hands. The following shows why. Hg is mercury. Note the Glyphosate which is the generic word for Roundup.

	Hg	Cd	Mn	Al	E-coli	Nitrates	Glyphosate
ppm	33	30	3	12	15	25	10

Federated Farmers should sort out the items in the above two paragraphs. Waikato Regional Council have been told, but don't like hearing it and ignore it, as they do about dogs swimming in allocated 'dog' beaches along the Waikato River and polluting it with Ecoli which an Environment Waikato boss told me 15 years ago, came from dogs.

### **Boron essential**

Solubor is a water soluble boron that leaches quickly which is not what plants, animals, caring farmers or environmental bodies need. OrganiBOR is the only slow release boron that I know of and becomes available at the rates at which plants need it.

The Boron chapter in Elements and the one in Human Health Elements have been updated with even more benefits of boron, so are worth reading for your health and that of your family, friends, soils and animals. When Milk Fever in the South Island west coast was uncontrollable, about 25 years ago, my suggestion of fertilising with boron reduced their uncontrollable Milk Fever. Low boron is the main cause of arthritis. Google for 'arthritis cause is boron' and 370,000 hits will come up. They can't all be wrong, but the medical outfit don't even know it.

**Emailing us**

Please don't use our xtra email address. It is the one I use for could be spammers so goes into Junk. Please use [support@grazinginfo.com](mailto:support@grazinginfo.com)

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