

# APPLICATION OF AGLIME ONTO CANE PRODUCES SURPRISING RESULTS.

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**JACK RUSSO**  
FARMER, FARNSFIELD, QUEENSLAND



## At a glance

**Location:** Farnsfield, Queensland  
**Crop:** Horticulture  
**Product:** Agricultural lime  
**Application:** 0.5 to 1 tonne per acre

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# CANE RESPONDS TO AGLIME APPLICATION ON FARNSFIELD FARM

## An opportunity application of AgLime onto cane produced surprising results on the Russo property at Farnsfield, in the Bundaberg region on Queensland.

Jack Russo farms with his father Joe and predominantly grows sugar cane, with peanuts as a rotation. In more recent years, macadamias have also been added to the mix. “We are trying to diversify the best way we can to make it sustainable to keep growing sugar cane and any other crop,” Russo says.

“These days we are pushing out to five and six ratoons of cane, with a peanut rotation. It seems to work really great for our rotation, and our timeframe, and it has improved our soil health. We are actually seeing our yields increase by big margins because of the peanut rotation.”

## AgLime application a viable option

A number of years ago, Russo says leftover lime was applied to the last year of cane prior to when it was rotated through to peanuts. “We’d never done it before so we had a few concerns and were worried about where the lime would go with not incorporating.”

They were pleasantly surprised with the yield increase of the limed cane versus other areas with greater tonnages from the area.

“We then backed it up with the peanuts. We didn’t have to re-lime it because it was still available to the soil for our peanut crop. It seemed to work well. It was still available for our rotational crop which was fantastic.”

## Cost-effective for soil benefits

Russo says the results showed that adding AgLime to the cane cycle could be a good option. “We have been up around the five, six tonnes to the hectare. Some

soils we’ve been lucky enough to get away with only a couple of tonne to the hectare but, on average, we’d be at four to five tonne to the hectare of AgLime for our peanut rotation.”

Russo says he’s getting a peanut crop plus a plant crop

plus five ratoons, enabling him to get seven years out of his five tonne to the hectare. “It is a pretty cost-effective option to get the benefit for the long term of the soil.”

**“If we can get the double benefit out of it, I think it is a very viable option for us going forward.”**

## Benefits of AgLime on your soil

- ▶ Promotes healthy soil structure and root development needed for pasture growth.
- ▶ Helps balance soil condition, ensuring fertiliser applications are fully utilised.
- ▶ Promotes increased dry matter production.



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