

GET YOUR PH IN THE RIGHT RANGE TO MAXIMISE AVAILABLE NUTRIENTS.

“ We’ve been running a devoted liming regime over five years and the improvements we’ve seen, both in legume content and overall stock performance, have been really encouraging. ”

JOHNNY GIRVAN
CANTERBURY FARMER



At a glance

Location Ranfurly, Canterbury
Farm Size 1500 ha
Herd Size 5,500 ewes, 350 cattle

System 2,500-3,000kg lime/ha applied to one third of the farm on an annual rotation.
Feeds Lucerne - with soil pH in the 6.5 range, Lucerne is a high quality feed which grows without the need for added nitrogen.

Call Graymont now for the right advice.

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MAXIMISE AVAILABLE NUTRIENTS WITH PH IN THE RIGHT RANGE.

When Ranfurly farmer, Johnny Girvan purchased his 1500 hectare property, the soil's pH was around 5.5. The experienced sheep and beef farmer knew that wasn't good enough. "It needed a shot in the arm," Johnny says.

That shot came in the form of Graymont's AgLime® and five years after its first application, Johnny reports his soil's pH is in the mid 6 range. Not only that, his lambs are plump and perfect.

Johnny has taken a sustainable approach to his lime application. Each year, he limes one third of his property. The spreader visits in autumn or winter, delivering 2,500-3,000kgs of lime/ha. The next year it moves on to another third of the farm and the cycle repeats.

"AgLime® has created better root depth and, thanks to the increase in legumes in the pasture, the stock don't have to eat as much," he says. His pasture has also proved more resilient, an added bonus with 5,500 breeding ewes and 350 cattle on the farm.

While there are many variables that can impact stock size and health, Johnny believes AgLime® adds valuable heft to his stock. The pasture and stock enhancements Johnny has noticed compare well with those recorded during extensive low rate liming trials from the 1970s. The trials were conducted by what was then MAF (now AgResearch) in the King Country, using a finely ground agricultural lime with very high purity.

Johnny says he appreciates the high level of calcium carbonate purity in Graymont's AgLime®. He uses 090 and DAP acid fertilisers and once blended elemental sulphur with AgLime® to correct a minor sulphur deficiency.

Every property will require its own unique regime but Johnny says he will always lime. "The economic benefits that we've gained through improved stock performance and savings in areas like animal health make liming a really cost-effective management tool for our business," he says.

Benefits of low rate lime application

Trials conducted by MAF (now AgResearch) in the 1970s showed liming, even at a low application rate of 1.12 tonnes/ha, helped deliver significant improvements in stock performance. The recorded improvements included: ewe weight gains of 5kg, ewe fleece weight increases of 0.5-0.6kg and 6 percent improvement in lamb live weights at weaning.

Benefits of light rate annual liming include:

- ▶ Improved soil structure
- ▶ Greater drought resistance
- ▶ Improved pasture palatability
- ▶ Increased clover content
- ▶ Better response times



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