

Improve pasture performance for healthy farms and healthy finances.

“ 14 months on from applying lime to the farm, we’ve achieved a 15% increase in production and halved our supplementary feed. ”



MICHAEL EARWAKER
WAIKATO DAIRY FARMER



At a glance

Location Pirongia, Waikato
Farm Size 260 ha
Herd Size 700 cows
Stocking Rate 2.7 cows per ha

System Application of AgLime® for pasture growth

Call Graymont now for the right advice.

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IMPROVE PASTURE PERFORMANCE FOR HEALTHY FARMS AND HEALTHY FINANCES.

AgLime® hadn't been applied to Michael Earwaker's farm in a decade... but now it's back.

When soil testing revealed low calcium levels on his 260ha Pirongia dairy farm, Michael began a determined search for solutions. He'd been battling mediocre production as his 700 cows struggled to cycle and stay in calf. The soil had a sickly pH of 5.5 and Michael became convinced the health of his farm, and his finances, relied on improving his pasture.

Michael's parents, Wayne and Jenny, had implemented an AgLime® regime on the same family dairy farm, so it was to that traditional approach Michael returned.

A sizeable dose of 4 tonnes per hectare was ordered and within a month the benefits were evident. "The pasture contained more clover and it obviously improved in palatability because the cows ate more of it; mowing their way through the paddocks without missing big clumps of sour grass," recalls Michael.

"Milk production surged and the grass developed deeper roots so fewer clumps were torn from the ground during eating. This, in turn, cut the grass seed bill considerably."

Despite a summer drought Michael says the farm emerged from the season with good results. "Graymont AgLime® gave us a boost and within a year we were noticing pasture growth like I'd never seen," Michael says.

"The girls are utilising more of the pasture, so I'm spending less on supplementary feed. I used to use 5kg per cow, per day, but now I use 2.5kg and don't need to start with it until much later in the season."

Michael says he's grateful they returned to AgLime® on the family farm when they did. The following year, the Earwakers had increased their herd size by 100 but were using much less supplementary feed. "The fertiliser bill fell considerably because Graymont AgLime® unlocked so many nutrients that a full fertiliser programme was no longer required," says Michael. "Pasture growth rose 30 percent and production increased by 50,000kg, or around 15 percent (per head).

"I'm not saying AgLime®'s the magic bullet but it's definitely helped us," Michael says. "We'll have a yearly programme with Graymont AgLime® from now on. Economically, we're miles better off."

Benefits of AgLime® on your soil

- ▶ Enhances soil structure and root development needed for healthy pasture growth.
- ▶ Improves feed condition and ensures greater efficiency.
- ▶ Helps balance soil condition, ensuring fertiliser applications are fully utilised.
- ▶ Gets soil composition right, delivering more worms and balanced pasture pH.



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