



# INCREASING PASTURE PRODUCTION AND STOCK PERFORMANCE

With NZ Beef + Lamb predicting 2018 - 2019 lamb and beef exports to both break \$3 billion for the second time<sup>1</sup> the launch of AeroLime™ is timely for hill country farmers.

Research carried out over a 3- year period in the Te Kuiti district has shown that low rate aerial liming can deliver significant benefits for hill country properties<sup>2</sup>. This research, which investigated the production responses to low rate applications of lime at 1.25t/ha, was published in 1981 and highlighted a number of important factors.

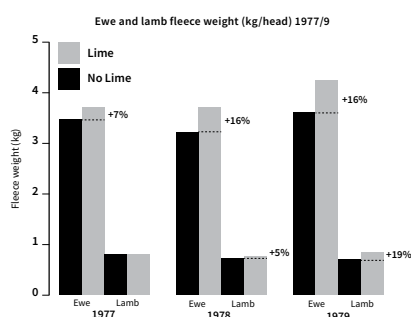
Number one was that lime – even at the low application of 1.25t/ha helped increase pasture production.

The main response to the lime appeared 15 months after the initial application, increased over time, and was still present 3 years after application. Other pasture and soil related responses recorded were improved legume content, decreased pasture litter and an increase in earth worm numbers.

The trial involved Romney and Border Leichest-Romney ewes, rotationally grazed at 14 ewes/ha, except during lambing, when they were set stocked. During the 3-year period the following stock performance related data was recorded.

## WOOL PRODUCTION

Fleece weights of both ewes and lambs showed responses to lime with an additional 0.5 to 0.6kg of greasy wool per ewe and up to



0.13kg per lamb being obtained during 1978 and 1979. This effect was attributed to the better overall nutritional plane of the limed pasture.

## STOCK WEIGHTS

“Limed” Lamb weights at weaning were 3kg better and during the last year of the trial 55% of lime treated lambs were ready for slaughter on 19 Feb, as against 38% of the un-limed. Ewe live weights in the limed sector were also around 5kg higher. Of interest – during the 2nd year of the Hill Country study a dry autumn resulted in rainfall being 40% below normal. Despite this, the increase in pasture availability allowed ewe weights to be maintained. According to soil scientist Paddy Shannon, this is consistent with other observations suggesting lime has a strong positive effect on soils and pasture under drought conditions.

“This is because limed soils retain water better and wet up faster than un-limed soils. Lime is therefore an important weapon in helping to reduce the long-term effects of drought.”

AeroLime is a minimum 92% calcium carbonate product manufactured through a specific crushing, screening and storage process. Extensive testing ensures that the product purity, particle size, moisture content and other factors consistently meet Graymont’s exacting specifications. These strict manufacturing and storage processes maximize product flowability in accordance with CAA guideline safety recommendations<sup>3</sup> while still allowing AeroLime to achieve agronomic performance expectations.

Graymont is committed to manufacturing AeroLime to a high standard. Farmers should contact their usual approved transporters and contractors to order.

**For further information Freephone 0800 245 463 or visit [www.graymont.com](http://www.graymont.com)**

1. 2018-19 lamb and beef exports forecast to both break \$3 billion for the second time (2018, September 14), NZ Beef + Lamb. Retrieved from <https://beeflambnz.com/news-views/lamb-and-beef-exports-forecast-both-break-3-billion-second-time>.
2. O’Connor, M.B.; Foskett, H.R.; Smith, A. 1981. The effect of low rate of lime on North Island hill country pasture and animal production and the economics of use. Proceedings of NZ Society of Animal Production 41:82-87.
3. Safety Guideline – Farm Airstrips and Associated Fertiliser Cartage, Storage and Application. Jointly published by the Civil Aviation Authority and Department of Labour (2005).

## HERE’S A REAL LIFT FOR HILL COUNTRY FARMING



### PUTTING YOU ON TARGET FOR BETTER PASTURE PERFORMANCE

Research shows that low rate liming of hill country can deliver significant benefits over time: increased pasture production, less pasture litter, increased worm activity, improved wool production PLUS faster lamb growth.\*

READY 4 TAKE-OFF NOW

Stock available - talk to your usual contractor today.

Freephone 0800 245 463 or visit [www.graymont.com](http://www.graymont.com) for further information.



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\*Links to relevant research available on our website.