

AGLIME A MAJOR PART OF THE PROGRAMME FOR GOOD FEED OPTIONS.

“ The growth of our new pastures has really accelerated compared to what the old stuff was. ”

MARK HAMMOND

DAIRY FARMER, GIPPSLAND, VICTORIA



At a glance

Location: Gippsland, Victoria
Herd: 650 cows
Product: AgLime
Application: 2.5 tonnes per hectare

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AGLIME AN IMPORTANT PIECE OF THE PUZZLE FOR GIPPSLAND DAIRY FARMER

The use of agricultural lime prior to the planting of pastures was a major part of the programme each season to ensure good feed options for dairyman Mark Hammond.

The Labertouche farmer milked up to 650 cows on his Gippsland property, with perennial ryegrass being the base feed throughout the year. Grazed through winter and early spring, it was then locked up and harvested for silage and utilised across summer.

“We tried to harvest as much silage in the spring when it was surplus, so we had that through the summer to feed,” Hammond said. Turnips and chicory were also grown over summer and maize silage bought in as another option.

“Maize silage filled our winter gap. We fed that to the autumn cows at joining and then carried enough maize to feed our springers, as they were calving in the spring.”

Paddock preparation with AgLime

Hammond said growing successful pastures could be put down to a number of factors which included paddock preparation, nutrition and weather conditions. He was on the property for seven years and across that time nearly every paddock had an application of lime.

“It took us between five and seven years to get around and improve nearly every paddock.

“We did a soil test around Christmas so I had a plan of attack running forward for the autumn.”

We were able to build a really good base level and improve every year. We got to the point of just maintaining everything and keeping it constant, so we were quite happy with that.”

Maintenance applications of AgLime are normally up around the 2.5 tonnes per hectare mark

and Hammond said they would incorporate the lime in the autumn cultivation rather than putting the lime across an existing pasture.

The perennial pastures are normally sown in March to take advantage of early moisture and warmer conditions. “I think the sooner you can get going, the sooner you can start grazing.”

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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