



Andy Taylor



During my time shearing

I noticed that the farmers

who limed their properties

produced big sheep with more

bone. Therefore I became an

advocate of liming and used to

put it on at a ton per acre.

(2.5 ton/ha. once every 4-5 yrs)



"However, this big dollop of lime did not work as I expected because the soil got too much in the first two years and not enough during the last couple of years.

About four years ago we started an annual dressing of Dicalcic Phosphate with Cropfine lime at 740kg per hectare (370kg/h Dicalcic Phosphate blended together with 370 kg/h Cropfine lime).

The advantage of doing it this way is that if you put it on yearly, you put it on lighter and it is then more efficient and you hardly feel it cost-wise. Also, with this all in one blending I can alter the ingredients or the formula as need arises. For example, the hay paddocks get a different formula from the main farm and the run-off block.

Up until October 1998 the farm's production was the best we'd ever seen and then we were hit by floods, followed by prolonged drought. Even during that really dry season I was just amazed at how the clover survived.

We have no need to graze off and we grow all our own hay and silage. Our cows all have natural mating and they don't have any trouble getting into calf. Our vet bill is practically nil so our farm costs are lower than most, while our results are above average.

This year the clover has really bounced back following the previous years droughts. Originally the Dicalcic Phosphate was recommended to me by another farmer because he had clover up to his ankles and no bloat. I still use bloat bullets in early spring for piece of mind, but I now think that having a lot of clover is not as dangerous as what everyone says.

Even while battling the elements we have still been able to maintain these advantages and efficiencies."

