Newsletter Summer 2021

VICKERY BROS.
THE FERTILISER PROFESSIONALS

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GROUNDSPREADING AGRONOMIC CONSULTANCY TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION

FERTILISER PRICING

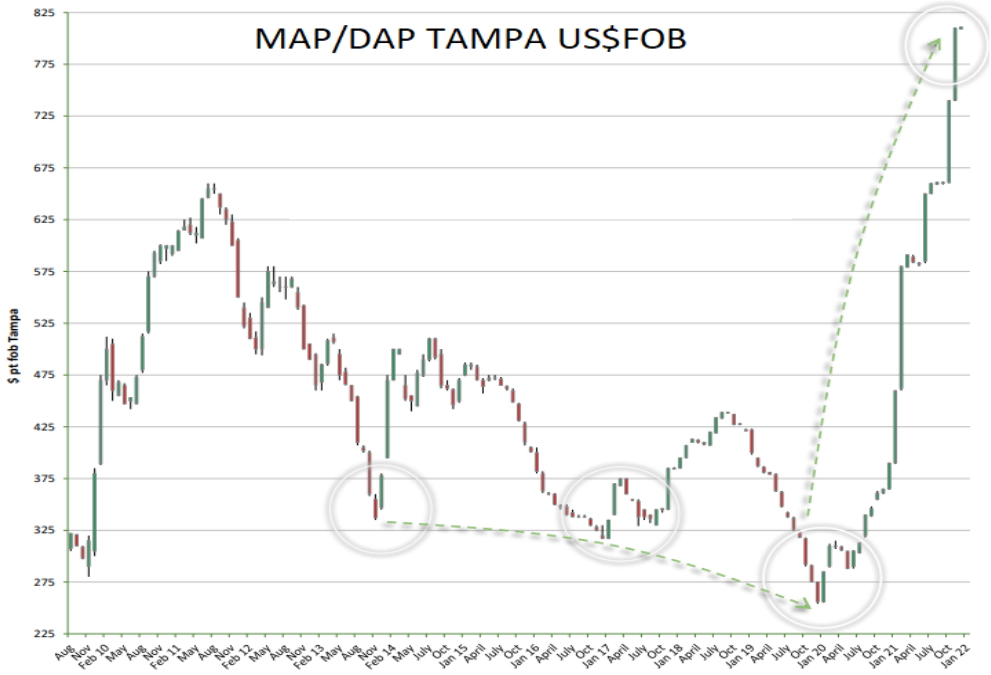
CRAIG TOSETTI

2021 has certainly been a busy year! We started 2021 with high hopes we were on top of the pandemic, the fertiliser season had started strongly and the grain harvest was a success. Then throughout Autumn the topic of discussion turned to the threat of fertiliser shortages as the worlds shipping began to struggle with the increased demand for products such as Iron ore and port congestion (some boats waiting up to 2 weeks at a port before a berth opened up). This meant long delays for fertiliser shipments coming into Australia. Vickery Bros was well placed with pre purchased stock from a number of suppliers that allowed us to reduce these delays as best we could and maintain a steady stream of fertiliser to our clients.

With the Summer/Autumn spreading season completed, the topic of discussion turned to rising fertiliser pricing along with the issues we were already seeing with availability. Some of the factors leading to the prices rises included:

- Shipping prices skyrocketed
- China's announcement of a potential fertiliser export ban (a majority of our Cropping fertiliser comes from China)
- Russian Export quota
- Energy crisis around the world (including gas price increases)
- European Nitrogen plant closures (due to gas prices and energy crisis)
- Increased worldwide demand for fertiliser

The Graph below shows fertiliser pricing over the last 10 years for MAP/DAP. As you can see prices have been at the lower end of the scale for the past 3 plus years and then we have hit this bull run in the market where prices hit 10 years highs in a very short period of time. This pattern is the same for most of the granular fertiliser products. These price increases haven't been seen since the GFC.



Fertiliser prices have continued to rise over the past 6-12 months and are only now looking to stabilise. Availability is still a major concern for the Australian market as well and this has bought forward demand for Summer/Autumn not seen previously. Conversations with clients we would normally have in December/January were taking place in September/October and we have already completed some summer fertiliser programs and delivered cropping fertiliser into farmers silos for next year's winter cropping requirements when product was available.

We have been on the front foot with our supplier's securing product for our loyal customers ensuring we can cover your fertiliser requirements for the coming season. We do expect some delays in product arrivals as we saw earlier this year but due to the high early demand, suppliers have bought forward their forecasts so we can expect product to be in the country earlier than it has been in the past.

After the many challenges 2021 has bought us, we are looking forward to providing the same great service to our customers we pride ourselves on in 2022.

HAS FERTILISER EVER BEEN THIS CHEAP?

PREPARED BY JAMES WHALE, JAMES WHALE CONSULTING PTY LTD
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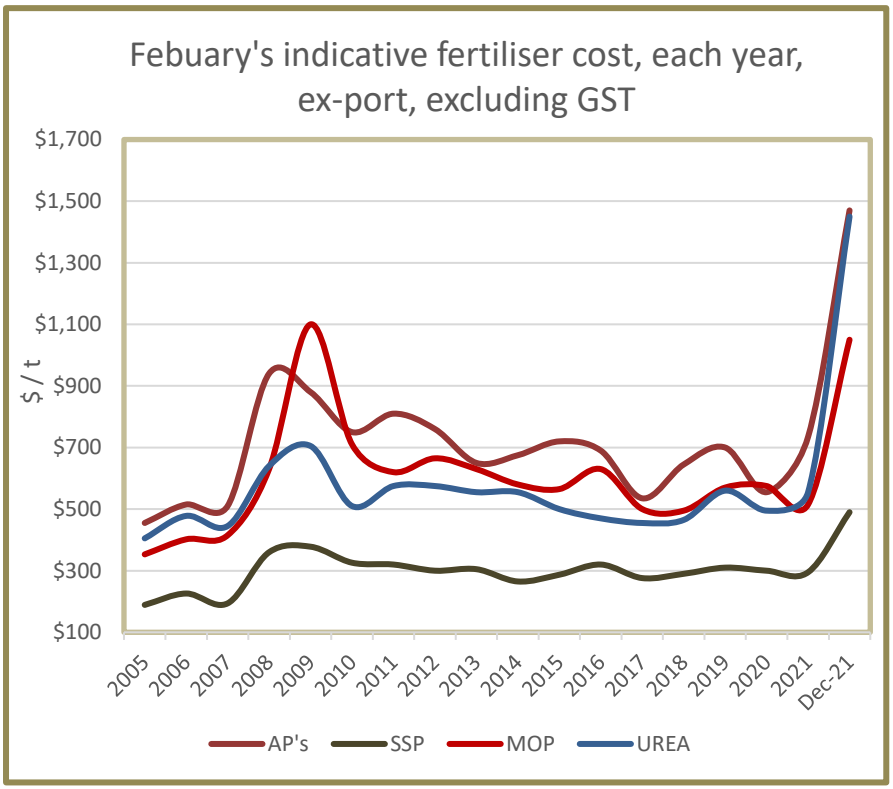
I don't think many people would argue the claim that primary producers are generally very good at minimising risk. The skill of risk mitigation is no doubt influenced by past experiences, including at times, the harsh realities of agriculture such as a collapse in commodity price or confronting a season that refuses to play ball.



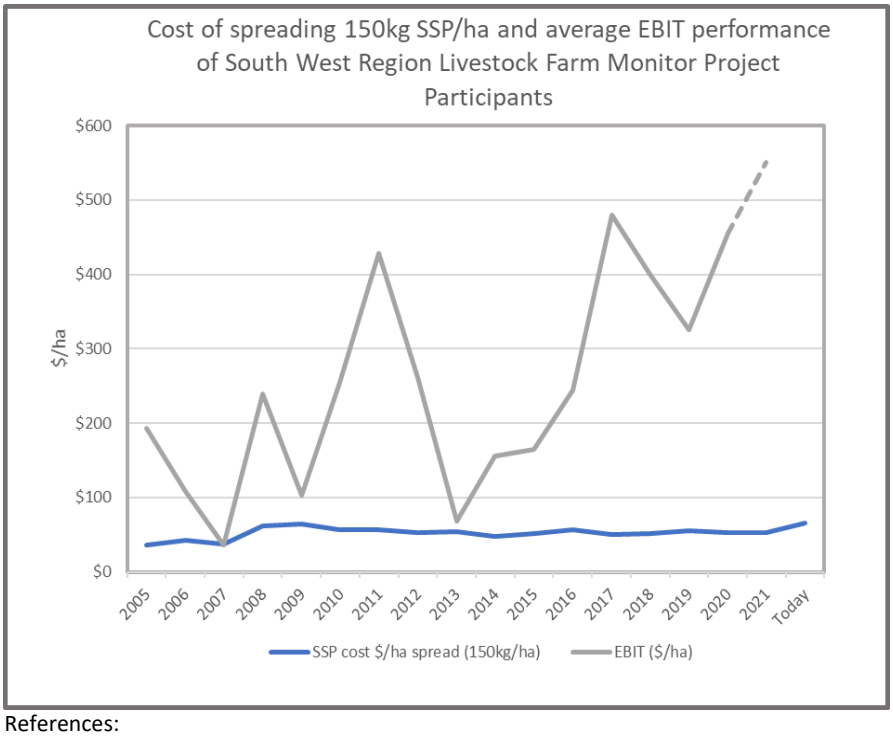
These thoughts bring me to the recent increases in fertiliser prices we've seen the past 6-9 months and the possible reactions by primary producers to them. Figure 1 shows indicative ex-port prices for various fertiliser products over the past 15 years and clearly shows the recent up-kick in fertiliser prices from February 2021 to today.

So, prices are well up on February and at this stage we don't know exactly where prices will be for summer/autumn spreading. But how do we put these prices into context? How do these prices relate to the economics of grazing enterprises being run? And what information should we be using to inform our decisions on fertiliser inputs for 2022?

Figure 2 is an attempt to put current fertiliser prices into perspective. The graph shows the historic ex-port SSP price converted to an on-farm per hectare cost when spread at 150kg/ha and assumes additional costs of $56/t for freight and spreading.

The graph compares this cost with the average per hectare EBIT (Earnings Before Interest, Lease & Tax) performance of South West region wool, lamb and beef producers of the Livestock Farm Monitor Project, which included 42 businesses in the 2019/20 analysis year.

The 2020/21 EBIT performance (dashed line) is a hypothetical figure of $550/ha with actual results expected to be released later this year. The 2020/21 year aside, the graph shows the recent rise in fertiliser price and its impact on typical per hectare fertiliser input costs are dwarfed in comparison to measures of grazing enterprise profit in our region. The difference between the per hectare cost of fertiliser and the profits being generated right now are probably higher than they have been for a long time. Note: the EBIT value already accounts for enterprise (Direct) costs, such as fertiliser and business overhead costs.



The cost of additional fertiliser inputs such as potassium, has not been included in this example, however the message is the same. The profit margins being generated are many times higher than the cost of typical fertiliser rate applications.

Even a doubling in per hectare fertiliser cost (say with additional K an N inputs) retains a very large gap between average per hectare profitability and fertiliser costs.

One sentence wrap… Unless soil nutrient status is at a level where production is not likely to be impacted by a reduction in fertiliser inputs, continued investment in soil fertility looks like a very good investment at this time.

References:
Livestock Farm Monitor Project – Annual Report 2019-20, Agriculture Victoria
https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/613156/LFMP-annual-report-2019-20.pdf

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER – THE SECRET SERVICE OF SOIL TESTING

ELIZABETH KENNEDY

The value of soil testing must not be understated. It is the link to maintaining and improving productivity by understanding how the cogs are turning on your biggest asset.

So, what do you get out of a soil test that makes it so marvellous? Well, it gives you a reading of the major nutrients of the soil such as phosphorous (P), potassium (K) and sulphur (S), as well as micronutrients like copper and zinc which allows you (and your agronomist) to understand the potential productivity of your paddocks. It also provides information on the pH, aluminium, salinity and soil structure to allow us to understand the environment the plant roots are living in and therefore how inclined they are to uptake said nutrients to grow.

Considering that soil testing has been around for a long time, a fair proportion of clients may be thinking I am preaching to the converted; but for those clients not soil testing, here is why you at least should be considering this not-so-secret service.

- Knowing the major nutrient levels of your soil allows you to understand the pasture production potential of your farm and its ability to increase. How fertile your soil is, plays a massive part in how productive your farm is. For example, if you have an OlsenP (phosphorous) reading of 6 you can achieve around 70-75% of maximum pasture yield. Compare this to an OlsenP reading of 15, which equates to you being able to achieve 95% of maximum pasture yield.
- Testing soil gives you a chemical understanding of the current physical properties of the soil via analysing its cation exchange capacity and its associated cations. This allows you to determine how to solve structural issues such as dispersion by understanding the primary cause and addressing the problem accordingly. The cation exchange capacity is fundamental in understanding the soil's ability to be resist change and therefore how much soil ameliorant is required for the soil to overcome the restriction.
- Soil testing helps provide the answers to successfully manipulate soil fertility and acidity. The scientific analysis generated tells you about the characteristics of that particular area/paddock, and you can then determine how much fertiliser or lime is needed to raise nutrient and pH levels into a better range for plants to take advantage of; and be more able to perform at their optimum potential.
- A test of the soil also alerts you to where the good nutrient levels are on your farm; and therefore, where maintenance applications are only required. It allows you to better manipulate your fertiliser application to only apply extra fertiliser where there would be added benefit, whilst cutting down on areas that have adequate nutrient levels.

Still not convinced on to why you would benefit from soil testing? The table below lists why many producers don't soil test. Let's debunk them one by one.

Reasons given by producers at focus meetings for reluctance to use soil testing – from focus meeting survey. (Respondents could select more than one option)

Reason for not using soil testing	Percent of cases (%)
Cost	48.0
Lack of confidence in accuracy of tests	16.0
My advisor knows my farm	12.0
Nutrients inputs are balanced by accounting for product removal	12.0
Soil tests do not provide new information	8.0
The soil test service is provided by the fertiliser agent – the results cannot be trusted	4.0

Table 1: MLA Final Report: An assessment and benchmarking of phosphorus nutrient use efficiency and industry management practice in southern Australia , 2014
https://www.mla.com.au/contentassets/625b2148ac7841afac4be7300a45f363/b.pue.0105_final_report.pdf

1. **Cost**; Around $150 per test for a full analysis of all critical nutrients; although it's 15% cheaper with our spring soil test deal which requires you to do 3 tests.
   Working on an average paddock size of 25 Ha's that equates to $6/ha for one paddock tested. If you soil test one third of your farm annually i.e., 500ha farm, therefore roughly 7 paddocks tested yearly (or 165 ha) the cost is $2/Ha. This seems to be a pretty cheap investment to have the power of knowledge at your fingertips to make better management decisions.
2. **Lack of confidence of accuracy**; all our tests are sent to Nutrient Advantage who are accredited by the Australian Soil & Plant Analysis Council (ASPAC) as well as by the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). They are one of the very few labs in Australia that carry both ASPAC & NATA accreditations servicing the agricultural industry.
3. **Advisor knows farm**; Yes, they know what is going on above the ground…not below.
4. **Product removal is accounted for**; A good place to start, but it only helps with understanding maintenance applications.
5. **Does not provide new information**; A soil test always provides new information. i.e., low Olsen P reading returned: "I already knew it had low fertility", yes but now you know what it takes to build up that fertility if you wish to do so.
6. **Can't be trusted because it was done by the fertiliser agent;** Nutrient Advantage is a nationally accredited laboratory with interpretation occurring by trained and skilled agronomists.

Bottom line is regular soil testing of your farm is an essential tool in making sure your biggest asset can generate an economic return on the capital employed. The team at Vickery Bros do approximately 3500 soil tests for clients every year and it is a very time consuming and mundane task taking all these samples; but the benefits in knowing what you are actually dealing with make it all worthwhile. With fertiliser prices continuing to climb, why not give your Vickery Bros agronomist a call to see where your soil fertility is at and help inform your decision for 2022.

WHY IT'S TIME TO LIME

LEIGHTON REES

There are many ways in which lime can enhance pasture production on your property, and potentially lead to increased returns. Lime as we know has the ability to correct your pH, reduce acidity as well as alleviate many other soil constraints. Liming can create a more desirable environment for plant growth. In layman's terms it's akin to a big packet of Quick Eze!! Before we look at liming, we need to identify whether the particular area in question will be responsive to lime. The requirements for lime can be easily identified through soil testing. Results will give valuable information in determining your demand for lime. It is a good idea to take a tissue test at the same time to confirm trace element availability. Applications of lime can have adverse interactions with trace elements, which need to be taken into consideration. Applying lime to areas that haven't been tested may be cost prohibited and unnecessary. LIME IS BY NO MEANS A SUBSTITUTION FOR SOIL NUTRIENT.

We typically look at lime as a soil ameliorant to reverse the effects of low pH & acidity. Soil pH and acidity can vary dramatically from paddock to paddock and needs to be looked at on an individual paddock basis. As a general rule, areas that have had high removals in the past e.g., hay paddocks, will typically become acidic quicker than areas where removals have been lower. This gives you a starting point for a soil testing program.

We are all aware that there is a desirable pH range in which plants do best. Certain pasture varieties will do better under different pH ranges. This is also the case for availability of soil nutrients. Certain nutrients can become more or less available at different pH ranges. Knowing where you sit within this range can provide information on plant species suitable to that particular pH range. We can also then look at a target pH for the area tested and work out its requirements for lime. Many things will need to be taken into consideration to determine rates of lime required. Some of these include soil type, CEC reading, buffering index etc.

Different soil types will react differently to applications of lime. Lighter soil types will be more responsive and change quicker than heavier soil types. Hence rates required can change dramatically.

All of this is best discussed with your agronomist who can sit down with you and run through the calculations to determine rates required. Choosing the right product will also need to be looked at. Not all liming products will give the same results. Each lime pit should have its own test results which will show calcium carbonate percentage, fineness of product etc. From this you will be able to determine the quality of the lime available to you and make a decision based on this. You will also need to consider distances from lime pits which can sometimes mean the difference between one product or another in terms of freight and cartage costs.

Correcting your pH often has benefits that are overlooked. One of the major benefits is clover function. Clover will perform less than ideal in an acidic environment and by increasing pH to above 5 in $CaCl_2$ your clover will function better and therefore produce more free N which is then available to grass species within your pasture.

Liming, can also as mentioned, create a soil environment which allows better availability of nutrient, leading to increased pasture growth. Your agronomist will once again identify your target pH ranges for your particular pasture/crop base and calculations can be made accordingly. This will mean that once your soil pH is optimal the nutrients within your soil will be available to that particular plant species.

A benefit of liming prior to your soil becoming acidic is that it allows the lime to treat more of the subsoil. This needs to be taken into consideration as plants roots aren't only removing nutrient from the top 10 cm where we typically soil test. They are drawing on nutrient much further down in the soil profile. Failure to lime early enough means that you may only be treating a small percentage of top soil and not allowing any lime to works its way down into the profile to treat and potentially reduce sub soil acidity. One you have an acidic environment at depth it is very hard to correct.

Costs associated with getting lime to depth in terms of mechanical labour can be very expensive, and in some instances not economical.

Getting as much information on your paddocks prior to considering lime will ensure you are capitalizing on potential returns from strategic applications in areas of your farm that will benefit the most.

Lime is quite often seen as a capital expenditure so we need to be able to justify this with current soil testing data which will mean we are achieving the best outcome possible.

November - January

LIME DEAL

FERTCARE®

Let us supply, deliver and spread your lime between November and January and take advantage of

DEFERRED PAYMENT UNTIL APRIL 2022

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GROUNDSPREADING AGRONOMIC CONSULTANCY TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS STORAGE & DISTRIBUTION

PHOSPHORUS CYCLE

FRANZI RIEGGER

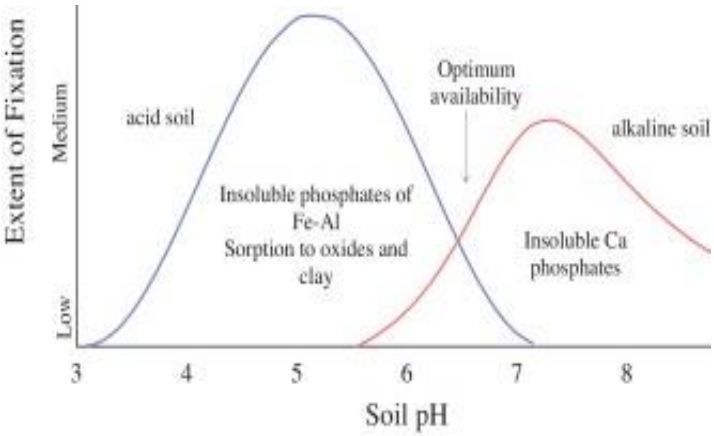
Phosphorus (P) is a very complex nutrient, to be more specific: it is the most chemically reactive element. Besides this, it is a key ingredient for successful farming as it is required by all plant and crop types for photosynthesis, energy storage, early root growth, seed formation and much more.

Generally, people have two different views on what happens when phosphorus is applied to pastures. Some assume that each application of P feeds the pasture directly and boosts pasture growth straight away, and others view it differently, assuming that most of the P applied to the soil gets "locked up" and cannot get accessed by the plants.

Both views are not quite right, that's why we need to look at what actually happens in the soil:

Phosphorus - from fertiliser to soil:
When a superphosphate granule first hits the ground, it draws moisture from the air and/or the soil and dissolves. The area around the granule becomes highly acidic causing iron, aluminium, calcium and manganese to dissolve. These then react with the phosphorus forming a solid compound. These compounds will be 10 – 30 times less soluble than the original fertiliser granule and are responsible for as much as half of the phosphorus that becomes less available in the soil.

The remaining phosphorus that moves in the soil solution reacts with the surfaces of clay minerals; this process is called adsorption. It initially binds with the most reactive sites that bind it the strongest. As more phosphorus is added, these sites saturate and any additional phosphorus then binds to sites that hold it less tightly. This results in every additional unit of P to be more readily available than the last.



This process is influenced by the pH and varies according to the soil clay minerals and exchangeable aluminium in the soil as shown in the graph, with the optimal phosphorus availability at a pH (in water) of 6.5. (Note: most soils in this area are acidic and have a pH of a lot less than 6.5. Check your soil test results. We can manage the soil for a healthy pH by applying lime.)

Now we know that the soil type is one of the big factors that determines the solubility of phosphorus. An index called the Phosphorus Buffering Index (PBI), which is also presented in every soil test result, is a measurement defining how well a soil can buffer the phosphorus availability as new phosphorus is added to the soil. The higher the PBI, the more phosphorus is needed in order to see a change in the availability of P. Contrarily, it takes longer for the phosphorus availability to drop as phosphorus is removed in plant products.

Soil Type	PBI	Amount of P to raise Olsen P by 1 unit (kg/ha)
Sand	0 to 50	6
Sandy loam	51 to 100	8
Sandy clay loam	101 to 300	9
Silty clay loam	101 to 300	9
Clay loam	301 to 400	10
Clay	401 to 500	11
Volcanic clay	501 to 600	13
Peat	Over 600	15

For example: A clay loam with a current Olsen P of 12, a PBI of 320 and a target Olsen P of 15 needs 10kg/ha of P to raise the Olsen P by 1 Units. So, in total we need to apply 30kg/ha of P as a Capital fertiliser application to reach the optimum Olsen P level of 15. This is equivalent to 340kg/ha of Single Super or 136kg/ha of MAP.

To maintain phosphorus levels is important to replace the amount of P that is removed throughout the year in animal products. Which generally spoken is around 0.8kg/ha of P per DSE. If you are running 15DSE/ha you are removing 12kg/ha of P and need to replace these with the equivalent of 136kg/ha of Single Super of maintenance application.

Long term Phosphate trial in 2005, L: 23P - 19DSE, R: 0P - 6DSE

A long-term history of phosphorus fertiliser applications in excess of plant removal generally means that you will build up a reserve of P, which can be utilised in years to come.
A first step to the right phosphorus application rate however is a regular soil test to assess the current phosphorus and pH levels and to monitor these in the following years.

In terms of timing of the phosphorus application; there is no effect on the availability of the phosphorus as to when fertiliser is spread. Early applications of your 'autumn fertiliser' during summer work just as fine, if not better, than applications close to or after the autumn break. The phosphorus is in the soil profile ready for the plant to access with the first rains.

Take home messages:

- Building up the phosphorus soil reserves will make more phosphorus available to the plant, regardless of how and when it is applied.
- It is not just the plant available phosphorus that is of value. It is the total phosphorus in the soil that is of importance.
- Phosphorus being fixed by most soils is a good thing as it prevents leaching losses.
- There is no need to be concerned about "lock-up". If a balanced phosphorus regime is maintained, everything that you apply will be used in the long run.

MILTON TRIAL SITE… WHATS HAPPENING?

ALISE RILEY

In 2020, Vickery Bros. and McDonald Rural Services officially began a trial program at the Milton trial site located on Lower Hilgay road. This 2ha area has undergone some extensive work in the last year to optimise the number of trials we can conduct at the site. The area has been fenced into 9 separate paddocks, with a number of troughs and two sheds installed. These changes allow us to manage 9+ trials and demonstrations at the site at any given time. This gives us the ability to explore multiple theories relevant to our customers and graze pastures as they would be on farm.

The site hosted a number of trials and demonstrations in autumn. These included a clover chemical tolerance matrix, broadacre cropping chemical tolerance matrix, summercrop oversow matrix, demonstrations of cocksfoot sowing rates and mixes, a grazing canola for winter feed trial and the planting of a long-term phosphorous trial to name a few. Results of these trials are currently being compiled, but keep an eye out for further updates.

Our Spring Summer program is underway. We are exploring the differences between autumn and spring sown lucerne and phalaris varieties, as well as planting a number of different summercrop varieties in order to monitor their optimum sowing dates and grazing tolerances.

To keep up to date with what's happening at the Milton Trials Site and to be notified of our next COVID safe field day, follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @MiltonTrialSite. Or contact your Vickery Bros. or McDonald Rural Services agronomist for more information.

The trial site as at 31/08/2021, ready for planting spring / summer trials.

WITHOUT A TRACE – LITTLE GUYS PLAY BIG ROLE

TONY DICKSON

Trace/micro nutrients are just as important to plant production than any other nutrient. The amount required by the plant is less than that of macro nutrients, however, they are still crucial for plant production. The old water barrel analogy comes into play here with the water only able to fill to its lowest plank in the barrel. If trace nutrients are not at an adequate level, we will be limiting plant production.

So, what are they?

Copper, molybdenum, selenium, cobalt, boron, zinc and iron are examples of trace nutrients, each with their own individual requirement for plant production and/or animal performance. Availability of these nutrients is dependent on several factors, starting of course with soil pH. Soil pH (CaCl2) of 5.0 - 6.0 is ideal for nutrient uptake for most trace nutrients. However, imbalances can occur with an interaction between trace nutrients.

Copper Deficiency Symptoms

- Reduced fertility
- Broken limbs
- Swayback
- Decreases in milk production
- Fleece quality/coat colour

First symptoms are often seen in livestock, meaning production losses have already begun. We can put numbers on the number of lambs lost per hectare due to broken limbs; however, the liveweight gain potential not being achieved due to copper deficiency is even more significant.

Molybdenum Deficiency Symptoms

- Low legume quantity
- Stunted growth
- Pale leaves, first signs seen in older leaves

Molybdenum has an availability interaction with copper and soil pH. After liming, the soil pH will shift up making molybdenum more available and copper less available. Because of this it is not recommended to apply molybdenum straight after liming the soil, however do include copper in the program. If lime is not applied and molybdenum deficiency is diagnosed it would be recommended to apply both molybdenum and copper to avoid an interaction induced deficiency.

Zinc Deficiency Symptoms

- Interveinal chlorosis
- Stunted growth
- Symptoms first appear on older leaves
- Production losses can go undetected

Soil pH has a strong effect on the availability of zinc to the plant. Uptake falls 100 times for every 1 soil pH rise after pH 5.5(CaCl2). Application rates are approximately 2kg/ha every 5-10years with foliar applications of 250g Zn/ha an option in cropping programs. It is commonly included in start-up fertilisers.

Selenium Deficiency Symptoms

- Reduction in growth rates
- White muscle disease
- Lower immune system

Selenium is often injected into the animal rather than spread out every year due to the requirement of selenium to pasture being practically none. Application rates of selenium cost approximately $7-10/ha, at 15DSE it works out to 60^{c}/animal. Labour costs and abattoirs picking up injection sites have made selenium fertilisers the preferred method of selenium application in recent years. Testing for selenium levels however, cannot be accurately detected on a soil/plant tissue test therefore requiring blood testing from a vet.

Boron Deficiency Symptoms

- Reduced root development
- Reduction in feed quality
- Reduced seed yields

There is a very small window between not enough and too much boron. Application rates of 500g/ha every 5-10years will maintain boron levels in the soil. Monitoring boron levels with a plant tissue test is essential to avoid deficiency and toxicity issues.

Cobalt Deficiency Symptoms

- Often seen in infertile highly acidic or highly alkaline sandy soils
- Anaemia
- Poor appetite

Cobalt is, as a general rule, an animal health concern. Cobalt sulphates can be included with autumn fertilisers however, the most common cause of remedy on cobalt deficiency is “Cobalt Bullets” used for long term treatment with an injection of Vitamin B12.

It’s so expensive… Or is it?

Traces are often the first nutrient taken out of the fertiliser program to fit the budget. Production losses are often seen before any deficiency symptoms are identified. As a general rule copper and molybednum applications are required once every 5-10years and cost approximately $25/ha and $10/ha respectively. With current livestock prices we don’t need to save too many lambs/ha to justify the costs.

Other trace nutrient costs/ha added to your regular fertiliser program.

- Boron - $7/ha
- Zinc - $10/ha
- Cobalt - $10/ha

By incorporating traces into the regular fertiliser plan and rotating through them, the additional costs per hectare each year is marginal. Leaving them out of the fertiliser program will lead to issues down the road with multiple trace issues resulting in several needed to be put out at once.

Staying on top of traces with a maintenance plan is essential to avoid production losses in both plant production and animal performance. The best way to stay on top of your trace nutrients is to soil and plant tissue test regularly.

WORM EGG COUNTS

SINEAD BARKER

Egg Counts Help Keep Worms at Bay

Internal parasites or worms can lead to poor lambing, reduced wool growth, poor body condition score and in the case of serve infestation can even lead to sheep dying! Young animals, or animals already in poor condition, are less able to tolerate worms, as are pregnant or lactating ewes as their immune system is reduced. Therefore, ensuring the sheep are correctly monitored and treated for worms is of vital importance for both animal welfare and production.

In our region (South West Victoria), two drenches should be carried out routinely. The first summer drench should occur around November or December, make sure to include the rams in this drench! The second drench should take place at weaning, as lambs are very susceptible to worms after weaning and a drench will help to ensure that they maintain growth rates as weaners. Egg counts can be carried out at any time but sheep should be monitored for worms using worm egg counts during critical times such as: 4-6 weeks after being treated with a short acting drench; high-risk mobs in July or August; in early summer for any mobs showing signs of having worms; ewes pre-lambing and weaners 5-6 weeks after their first summer drench; and again 4-6 weeks after the autumn break. If treatment is required a highly effective combination drench should be used. Going into the autumn, plan for the weaners to go into a low-risk pasture.

There are a few different methods of carrying out worm egg counts, at McDonald Rural we have found using our automated system from 'Parasight Systems' to provide fast results, it has been optimised for accuracy and precision and can deliver results within 10 minutes. This method doesn't rely on human eyes to count the number of eggs, instead a machine washes, dyes, scans and counts the number of eggs. Allowing us to make an informed decision regarding worm burden and drenching. 'Parasight Systems' has been validated in Australia for use in sheep, goats, cattle and horses.

To collect a good sample, muster a large number of sheep into a clean area of the paddock, or into clean yards, collect a fresh sample from at least 10 different individuals. Try to ensure that you select animals that represent the mob, not the 10 worse or the 10 best. Place the sample in the bag provided by McDonald Rural Services, or a clean zip-lock sandwich bag or similar, keep the sample cool and bring it in to be tested within 24 hours.

The bottom line is that regular worm egg testing combined with accurate drenching will provide your mobs with the best protection against worms, allowing your mobs to perform and grow at their best, and with the current price of livestock no one wants to miss out on weight due to worm burden! For advice on worm egg count drenching decisions, you can always seek professional advice from the team at McDonald Rural Services.

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SEASONAL REMINDERS

- Soil and tissue test for the upcoming season
- Get your farm nutrient plan organised
- Take advantage of our lime deal to get your pH right and to assist cash flow.
- Make sure your dumpsite has been graded
- Control those crickets!
- Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!!

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