BioBytes

May 2019, Manawatu, New Zealand

Dr Lucy Waldron……"get the soil right."

As an animal nutritionist dealing with grazing species, as well as others, pasture suitability and quality is a major issue. When I am asked about pasture for grazing animals, especially by horse owners who may be on poorly managed paddocks, the first thing is to get the soil right. There is no point in spending money on good grass seed if the soil has been neglected, allowed to develop acidic pH and hasn't been fertilised for many years. Grass is only as good as the soil it grows in!

I bought my current 14 acre property of loam over clay in the Manawatu, in 2011.
The land was old sheep pasture, it had been badly neglected with a series of tenants and lifestyle owners for many years and there was little rye/clover. The first thing I did was to work with BioAg to get soil tests run from various soil samples across the property. A planned approach to fertilising and soil conditioning was then embarked on – initially on an annual basis, and now with testing only being done every other year, as the soil has improved greatly over time. One of my main aims was to get better drainage and more active topsoil in the paddocks – so BioAg's approach in terms of promoting bacterial and fungal activity in the soil to promote functional activity around the roots of the grass fits well.

Since 2011, every year my pasture gets treated according to BioAg's recommendations with the dry product to balance the pH and minerals alongside BioAg's liquid bio-stimulant and soil conditioner.
I have specialist high fibre, horse-friendly grasses planted in my paddocks, which are deep rooted and have worked very well in synergy with the BioAg program to give excellent biomass, with large crops of balage and hay every year. For example, this season, I got 64 large squares (12 bale equivalents) of balage in November, and then 418 conventional hay bales at the end of January from the same 7-8 acres of land.
Two of the paddocks were very wet and muddy in winter when I first bought the property. Since then, with the deep-rooted grasses and the BioAg program in place, the paddocks are now useable all year round, with no boggy areas by the boundary fence.
I am happy to recommend BioAg programs for optimising soil fertility.

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TO:	Lucy Waldron	AT:	LWT Animal Nutrition Ltd
SUBJECT:	Analysis Report	Date:	*7/06/19*
TRIAL:	TN19-435	*SAMPLES RECEIVED:*	*31/05/19*

Number of pages in this report: 2

TN19-435 Results are on a DRY MATTER basis

Pasture Silage	Range				14 - 20	30 - 45	25 - 35	1 - 3	3 -5	9 - 11	65 - 75	<4		<5 - 15
NutLab ID	Sample Name	DryMatter %	Residual DM g/100g	Ash g/100 DM	CP g/100 DM	NDF g/100 DM	ADF g/100 DM	Lipid g/100 DM	SSS g/100 DM	* ME MJ/kg DM	Dig g/100 g DM	pH	NH4N mg/100g DM	* N4-N %N
TN19-435-01	Horse Silage	30.4	93.6	7.9	*10.7*	64.1	34.2	4.2	9.4	9.7	60.3	4.4	187.5	11.0

Pasture	Range		>90%	8- 12	15 - 30	35 - 55	20 -30	3 - 5	6.5 - 17	9.8-12.5	65 - 84
NutLab ID	Sample Name	DryMatter %	Residual DM g/100g	Ash g/100 DM	CP g/100 DM	NDF g/100 DM	ADF g/100 DM	Lipid g/100 DM	SSS g/100 DM	ME MJ/kg DM	OMD g/100 g DM
TN19-435-02	Hay Waldron	83.6	95.3	7.0	12.2	51.6	28.8	2.0	11.6	9.7	65.9