

# WE DON'T NEED MORE COWS PER Paddock, WE NEED MORE GRASS.

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## DAVE MUGGERIDGE

WAIKATO DAIRY FARMER



### At a glance

**Location** Tatuanui, Waikato  
**Farm Size** 90 ha  
**Herd Size** 280 cows  
**Stocking Rate** 3.1 cows per ha

**System** Application of three lime products on farm: AgLime® for pasture growth, Calcimate® as a feed supplement, RaceFines® for the tanker track.

Call Graymont now for the right advice.

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# OPTIMISE FARM PRODUCTION. DON'T MILK MORE COWS, GROW MORE GRASS.

**Optimising farm production is essential for Waikato farmer, Dave Muggeridge. He's one of 112 shareholder farmers who supply to the local Tatua Cooperative Dairy Company from his 90-hectare farm in Tatuani.**

Dave's herd of 280 cows is milked by a contract milker, allowing Dave to focus on the management of his pasture and stock. "In this country, we don't grow enough grass to fulfil the potential of the New Zealand cow," Dave says. "We don't need to put more cows on, we just need to grow more grass."

Better pasture management is at the heart of Dave's farming approach. "I use AgLime® and 2-6 Chip to alter the pH, increase the microbial activity in the soil and hence improve soil structure. The lime makes the grass highly palatable," he says.

So, while it doesn't change the number of mouthfuls a cow is eating each day, it does mean there is more in each mouthful. "It makes the grass thicker, a bit like a New Zealand wool carpet, and highly nutritious."

At his previous property, Dave used to apply lime to a quarter of the farm each year and observed that it was the best-performing pasture. "From this, we decided to apply AgLime® at a lighter rate over the whole farm. Now we lime the whole farm every year."

The AgLime® Dave applies helps grow more grass which is the cheapest form of dry matter, especially compared to supplements such as maize or palm kernel. Dave says using a grass based system helps improve margins, which is especially valuable in low-margin periods. "You're not writing out cheques for silage and you don't need extras like a feed out wagon."

AgLime® has provided measurable improvements in pasture production on Dave's farm. "We're growing a lot of grass and not leaving a footprint. And we're not having a lot of nitrogen escaping out of the system. There's always grass, even in a drought period. The cows are satisfied and the results are very encouraging."

## Benefits of AgLime® on your soil

- ▶ Promotes healthy soil structure and root development needed for pasture growth.
- ▶ Improves feed condition and ensures greater efficiency.
- ▶ Helps balance soil condition, ensuring fertiliser applications are fully utilised.
- ▶ Gets soil composition right, delivering more worms and balanced pasture pH.
- ▶ Delivers increased dry matter production.



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