



November 2, 2016

FertAg works for Wangaratta beef farmer

Wangaratta beef farmer Brett Goodwin got better than he bargained for when he trialed fertilizer FertAg 0-8-0 on his property.

He gave it a go because it was a superior product to straight super, profoundly reducing phosphate loss through leaching and suitable for organic as well as conventional farms.

As a bonus, after a 12-month initial trial, Brett also found that FertAg 0-8-0 could help save the lives of his cattle from the scourge of grass tetany.

Last year he trialed FertAg 0-8-0 on his 142 hectare property at Tarrawingee in North East Victoria, adjacent to a paddock where he applied straight super.

“It is heart breaking to come across cows in the paddock, dead from something as common as grass tetany, so I am hoping this FertAg 0-8-0 product comes up trumps again in the second trial,” Brett said.

“I ran a trial for 12 months, and five cattle died next door using straight super, but in the adjacent paddock using FertAg 0-8-0 there were no losses,” he said.

“It has got to be the magnesium or the benefits of not tying up the magnesium. If I apply straight super I really struggle with grass tetany.

“The FertAg product gives very healthy and very strong clover production. I will use it again for the next 12 months to confirm the initial results.”

A cow in the lactation stage after calving needs a strong diet of magnesium to replace the magnesium lost from the body in milk, urine and faeces.

“I applied four ton of FertAg 0-8-0 last year, and don't get me wrong, I've been a straight super man for a very long time.”

A third generation farmer since he was 18, Brett and his family run a herd of 80 beef cows and calves, aided by his trusty farm dog Ned, a blue heeler, border collie cross. Brett's dad still farms at age 90.

“FertAg 0-8-0 allows magnesium to reach the grass and seems to curb grass tetany.

“It does give you a greater stalk in your grass and stronger clover. My ryegrass has a bigger stem. It seems to be a very good product at this stage

Managing director Les Szonyi says that “FertAg is much more than a source of highly available phosphate. The results Brett has seen in reduced grass tetany and better quality grass are due to the highly available magnesium (10%), calcium (23%) and silica (11%) also in the product.”

FertAg has obtained exclusive Australian/New Zealand distribution rights from an Asian supplier to provide up to 50,000 tons a year of a specialty high-grade phosphate product that can be used by organic and conventional farmers.

The environmentally friendly product reduces phosphate loss through leaching by up to 22 times less than for soluble phosphate sources and is suitable for use in organic agriculture.

Other pluses include: easy to store, easy to mix with compatible

fertilizers, is acid but not water-soluble and has the same neutralizing value as Ag lime.

It reduces sodium content over time, reduces metabolic deficiencies in animals with grass tetany and milk fever, and increases and extends the grazing period in forage and pasture species.



Brett Goodwin with his trusty farm dog Ned at the family Wangaratta farm in North East Victoria.

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