



## DAIRY & DRYSTOCK Newsletter

AUTUMN 2017

Hi Everyone,

Another weird summer to go down in the history books – but there's no "normal" when it comes to farming seasons, keeping up with mother nature is about building resilience into your farming systems and we are constantly impressed by the resilience and resourcefulness of our farming customers – well done!

We have a great Autumn Special for you on our SOIL NUTRITION range – both in the liquid and solid forms – this offer is available through to March 31st.

# AGRISEA AUTUMN SOIL SPECIAL

VALID MARCH 1ST - 31ST 2017

**1 Ton**  
**\$300 OFF**  
(RRP)

**1/2 Ton**  
**\$100 OFF**  
(RRP)

**100L**  
**\$50 OFF**  
(RRP)

**200L**  
**\$100 OFF**  
(RRP)

**1000L**  
**\$500 OFF**  
(RRP)



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## SOIL – Your Farms biggest asset!

It is a fact that very few soil problems are intrinsic - most are due to the depletion or absence of diverse communities of soil microbes.

Firstly, soil function is strongly influenced by its structure and in order for soil to be well structured, it must be living. Life in the soil provides the glues and gums that enable soil particles to stick together into pea-sized lumps called aggregates.

Well-structured soils with high levels of biological activity **are more productive with fewer inputs**, less prone to erosion and compaction and function more effectively as bio-filters.

Vigorous root systems and relationships with beneficial soil biology are essential for maximising the ability of crop and pasture plants to obtain nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, calcium, magnesium and a wide variety of trace elements including copper, cobalt, zinc, selenium, boron and molybdenum.

Many of these elements are essential for animal health as well as plant resistance to pests and diseases. They also confer resilience to climatic extremes such as drought, waterlogging and frost. **Plant function is enhanced when these nutrients are obtained via natural microbial pathways** rather than applied in synthetic form.

The single biggest on-farm factor to ensure healthy waterways is to have healthy soil. As rules tighten around environmental factors including compromised waterways, farmers need viable on-farm options. AgriSea are dedicated to showing NZ farmers the results on farm with our range of Biostimulants in both liquid and solid forms to suit any farm management system.



### Soil Nutrition

The NZ autumn SOIL NUTRITION application is a key to biology build up and sets the farm up for Spring, it will supply energy and nutrition to the soil microbes and well as micronutrients essential for root development & growth. Supplying adequate nutrients to the root hairs is critical to increase resistance to winter weather extremes i.e. pugging, saturation & waterlogging; frost/snow, now is the perfect time to apply at 5l/ha or 20 kgs/ha if applying in solid format.

*"Soil health is directly related to the health of its biological populations and AgriSea Soil concentrate feeds the 'stock' below the ground"*



### Pasture Nutrition

**Feed Quality:** Spray Pasture Nutrition 3-4 weeks ahead of springers ready to calve in their grazing paddock; immediate mineral lift to pasture/herd; assists with calving, RFM's and milk fever.

**Pasture Recovery** – Spray behind heavily grazed paddocks by dry cows; promotes pasture recovery and growth. Many AgriSea farmers found using an AgriSea soil and pasture program prior to a long dry summer set them up to grow quality grass with very little urea. Less Urea combined with AgriSea Pasture Nutrition meant better quality grass and less animal health issues – it is great to have this feedback – Thank you!



### Animal Health for pre-Drying off and pre-Calving

Administering AHT to cows over drying off and calving is important, as these are major stress times for animals. AgriSea Animal Nutrition provides trace minerals and complex nutrients in a form that is immediately bio-available for animal uptake. Seaweed is naturally high in iodine - without sufficient levels of iodine in the system many minerals cannot be taken up.

## Spotlight – Iodine

Iodine is an essential micronutrient and is critical for metabolic and general animal health – the significance of iodine can often be overlooked causing reduced performance. Iodine supplementation can be especially **important in cows** in late mating and late pregnancy (after drying off) to ensure enough iodine is getting through to the developing calf. **For Lambing** iodine is especially important 4 and 8 weeks prior to lambing, iodine deficiencies can cause brain development issues and low body weight which will effect production later.







## HERE IS NICK AND JO'S STORY OF THEIR JOURNEY WITH ORGANICS AND AGRISEA

The farm had to transition and it took a few years – being patient is a big thing. It takes time but incrementally you see the improvements.

The way the climate seems to be getting more and more extreme it's imperative to have a resilient system. You don't know what's going to be thrown at you but you know it's going to be extreme at some point so you have to prepare for that.

We have used AgriSea Animal Health Tonic for 12-years, the soil and foliar sprays for eight years and this autumn applied the new solid product.

We have found since using AgriSea products our soil test results are coming back with everything more in balance. AgriSea has been a huge part of our organic journey. The results speak for themselves – you can see how it benefits the soil and the stock. In regards to facial eczema and spore counting – prior to and during the early years of conversion to organics our spore count levels have dropped from 300-350,000 down to 15,000 this year with counts up to 500,000 in the district. With organics it is critical to be proactive. We don't want to be fixing problems - that is really costly.

Healthy soil and animals is key – we realise the benefits and recommend AgriSea products to anyone wanting to convert to organics. With reduced empty rates and animal health costs and no facial eczema along with better soil biology it is money well spent.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

We are all over the shows, literally ....

Horse of the Year	7- 12 March
Wanaka A&P (Upper Clutha)	10-11 March
Mayfield A & P	11 March
Kumeu Show	11-12 March
Central Districts Field Days	16- 18 March
Methven A & P	18 March
Malvern A & P	25 March
Edible Garden Show	25-26 March
Flaxbourne A&P	26 March
South Island Field Days	29- 31 March
<b><u>APRIL 2017</u></b>	
Oxford A & P	1 April
Mackenzie County A&P	17 April





## WAIKATO PUREBRED JERSEY CLUB AGRISEA VISIT

Members of the Waikato Purebred Jersey Club were recently treated with AgriSea hospitality and a behind the scenes tour of their Paeroa factory. Jill Bradley shared with the group how it all began – a holiday in the 90's with husband Keith where they received free accommodation in return for work on organic farms across the country. "It was completely life changing," said Jill. She said one of the farms in the Hawkes Bay stood out and was way better than the others – the difference being the major input of seaweed. The couple returned to Auckland and researched seaweed and found it was hardly used in New Zealand but overseas the value is well known particularly around the seaside vineyards in France resulting in quality wine.

Seaweed is categorised by colour; red, green and brown and the couple knew it was brown seaweed that was used in horticulture and agriculture so they set about determining out of the hundreds of varieties, which New Zealand species would be the most suitable. This turned out to be the New Zealand native *Ecklonia Radiata*. "Seaweed is one of the most complex materials in the world," Jill said. "It has every known element as it absorbs nutrients from the sea." AgriSea only ever uses beach cast seaweed and have fifty coastal families that collect for them. Jill Bradley was the founding member of the Seaweed Association of New Zealand Incorporated (SANZ) and worked with top scientists, environmentalists and Maori and funded a seven year research project. Daughter-in-law Clare Bradley who spent two years in the Amazon rain forest said when you make a change – if you take something out or put something into a system it has a ripple effect, you have to look at the whole system economically and sustainably. She said seaweed was not classed as a fertiliser but a biostimulant – an industry that has grown 15-percent worldwide driven by science and customer demand.

"Science is about discovering and researching new knowledge and seaweed has every macro and micro nutrient," she said. "Producing more roots, longer and thicker roots in plants – there is more life under the soil than on top." New Zealand Universities have come on board with research and getting really excited about New Zealand seaweed. The results from trials and case studies speak for themselves and AgriSea support their clients as they transition and gradually reduce their Urea use. Factory Manager Steve McKain led the tour party through the facility – a former butter factory in Paeroa. The seaweed is batch-brewed with specially selected essential herbs for up to 90-days. He said the natural brewing process eliminates the use of processing with heat, chemicals, freezing or dehydration that might 'denature' the sensitive nutrient balance. "This allows the natural growth stimulants and micro-nutrients to be released in an active form to enhance soil and plant health". AgriSea's natural brewing methods are unique for commercial production. Bruce McRobbie, Chairman of the Waikato Purebred Jersey Club said it was a very interesting and enjoyable day.

"It was an eye-opener - we thought all seaweed was the same and didn't realise there were so many different types."

"Our members were impressed with the natural process – letting nature do its thing and several people purchased product."

Thames Valley Ayrshire Club also joined the group for the day. McRobbie said clubs are getting smaller and companies go to a lot of effort for these days out and inviting the Ayrshire club helped with the good turnout. "These events days don't just happen – there is a lot of work involved,"

"We appreciate these days out – we don't just sit on the farm all day!"

We wish you all the best for the Autumn ahead and we look forward to seeing you

From Tane & Clare, Jill & Keith and the MIGHTY team at AgriSea.

[www.agrisea.co.nz](http://www.agrisea.co.nz)

