THE WAVE

AgriSea Newsletter, Winter 2025

Update from Clare

By Clare Bradley Chief Executive Officer

As the season rolls on, there's plenty to feel positive about. Strong milk prices, solid production, and a low New Zealand dollar are combining to bring well-earned rewards to our rural communities. It's a good moment to reflect, reset, and reinvest in long-term resilience on-farm.

One of the smartest ways to do that? Optimise what's beneath your feet. By balancing fertiliser use with biostimulants, sowing diverse pastures, and planting the right trees, you can double your effective farming area—unlocking deeper soil potential and building long-term profitability.

Innovation continues to drive what we do at AgriSea. Our new seaweed hydrogel factory is nearly operational—this breakthrough technology opens the door to exciting applications, from wound care and seed gel coatings to targeted on-farm biotech solutions.

We've also strengthened our R&D commitment, recently signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Waikato. It formalises over 15 years of collaboration—supporting student research and pioneering ground-breaking science together.

Dr.Rosanne Ellis, Director Innovation and Impact Professor Gary Wilson, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Waikato, and Clare Bradley, CEO of AgriSea, Tane Bradley CIO of AgriSea, Dr John Tyrrell Innovations Manager signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organizations.

FORTRESS+ DAIRY

Protection from the inside out

AgriSea NEW ZEALAND

Spotlight: Fortress™

Essential Support during Calving

As calving ramps up, so do the demands on your animals. Fortress™, part of AgriSea's Animal Nutrition range, is designed to deliver targeted, bioavailable trace minerals when your herd needs them most.

The transition period places huge metabolic pressure on dairy cows. Fortress™ supports immune function, liver health, and rumen activity—helping animals better manage the stress of calving while preparing for peak production. Its formulation, enriched with natural seaweed compounds and chelated trace minerals, ensures rapid uptake and effective utilisation.

Farmers using Fortress™ consistently report:

- **Fewer metabolic issues during transition**
- **Improved condition scores post-calving**
- **Stronger heats and improved reproductive performance**

If you're aiming to reduce intervention and boost animal performance through a more natural, science-backed approach—Fortress™ is your go-to.

0800 SEAWEED www.agrisea.co.nz

TRIP DOWN SOUTH

In February, the North Island AgriSea AFC team and the Rere ki Uta, Rere ki Tai research group joined our South Island AFC, John Earnshaw, in Christchurch for a deeply rewarding tour grounded in science, collaboration and connection.

The main purposes were to host an on-farm day at Peter Abrahamson's farm, a long term AgriSea user and also to reconnect with Dr Pablo Gregorini and Dr Sagara Kumara from Lincoln University. They are key research partners in the Rere ki Uta, Rere ki Tai trials, and have been finding growing evidence of how AgriSea biostimulants are transforming soil, pasture, and animal health in Aotearoa.

Day 1: Research Findings & Farm Innovation at Lincoln

The first day kicked off at Lincoln Universities Integral Health Dairy Farm at the Ashley Dene Research Station, where Pablo and Sagara presented the latest results from the AgriSea biostimulant trials. The findings were wide-ranging and deeply promising:

SOIL HEALTH FINDINGS

- Increased microbial function (hot water extractable carbon)
- More carbon and organic matter
- Higher Potentially Available Nitrogen
- Higher Anaerobically Mineralizable Nitrogen
- Higher Total Nitrogen

These all indicate a stronger, more resilient farm system with better nutrient cycling and potentially less need for synthetic inputs.

PASTURE HEALTH FINDINGS

- Improved Digestibility
- Higher Metabolisable Energy
- Higher yeild and dry matter production
- More Crude Protein
- Enhanced clover content in pastures
- Reduced pasture disappearance rates, supporting more sustainable grazing cycles.

A Tour of the “Integral Health Dairy Farm”

Following the research session, Pablo invited the team to explore the innovative "Integral Health Dairy Farm"—a living example of regenerative, system-wide thinking. There, many of the Rere ki Uta, Rere ki Tai research principles are being actively trialled and scaled, including diverse pastures and a focus on whole-system health.

One of the highlights was Pablo’s use of “Tuna”—carefully shaped strips of trees and forage in the form of eels, designed to weave biodiversity through the paddocks. These agroecological corridors offer shade, shelter, and supplemental forage for animals while mimicking natural patterns and enhancing mauri (life force) in the landscape.

A Taste of Argentina at Pablo’s

After the data, it was time for dinner. The team gathered at Pablo Gregorini’s home for a traditional Argentinian asado (barbecue)—a feast of flame-grilled meat, homemade chimichurri, and shared stories. It was an evening of warmth, laughter, and connection and may have resulted in a few sore heads the following morning. Key learnings from the evening were: **don’t let Reg have first crack at the strawberries and Mongolian moonshine is no laughing matter!**

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Day 2: On-Farm Field Day Hosted by AgriSea

The following day, AgriSea hosted an on-farm field day at Peter Abrahamson's farm, bringing together local farmers, scientists, and industry professionals. The goal: to showcase a very successful real-world application of AgriSea products and share knowledge across the agricultural community.

Dr Pablo Gregorini presented key findings from the Rere ki Uta, Rere ki Tai trials, focusing on the importance of diverse pasture systems, nutrient cycling, and animal product quality. He was joined by Dr Gwen Grelet, a leading voice in soil biology, who gave an insightful talk on the soil microbiome and its crucial role in farm resilience.

Attendees also saw firsthand how AgriSea Soil Nutrition, when paired with liquid nitrogen, has delivered tangible gains in soil structure, nutrient efficiency and pasture and crop yield on Peter's farm. Discussions also covered the benefits of using AgriSea Animal Nutrition in drinking water, which Peter credits with improvements in animal health, behaviour, and productivity.

Relationships, Whenua, and Regeneration
Across both days, a shared theme was clear: healthy soil feeds healthy plants, animals, and people. The Christchurch tour wasn't just about data—it was about relationships, trust, and the long-term transformation that AgriSea products and service can bring.

As the team returned north, they did so uplifted by the results, the conversations, and the visceral feeling of knowing they are making a positive difference to the future of farming and growing in New Zealand.

Introducing... **Nick Wilkins**

Covering the Manawatu, Whanganui, and Hawke's Bay regions, Nick Wilkins is based in Takapau where he and his partner raise calves. Nick brings a real passion for regenerative farming, diverse pastures, holistic grazing systems, and improving soil health and pasture performance. By putting his passion into action on his property, as well as being active in several local sporting clubs, Nick understands the land and the people who work it. Whether you're looking for advice, support, or solutions to improve your farming system, Nick is here to help. Feel free to reach out to him for any service or product needs.

60% MORE
Dry Matter per Kilogram of Nitrogen

AgriSea Biostimulants Help Waikato Farmer Cut Nitrogen Use by Over 50% While Boosting Soil Health and Productivity

A ground-breaking on-farm trial using AgriSea's biostimulant products has enabled Waikato dairy farmer Matt Rout to slash his synthetic nitrogen fertiliser use by more than 50%, significantly improve soil health, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions—all while maintaining, and even improving, pasture growth and overall productivity.

Farming just north of Morrinsville, Matt milks 200 cows on a System 3 dairy platform. With a strong focus on simplicity and efficiency, he now credits AgriSea's biostimulant programme as a key driver in shifting away from synthetic inputs and toward a more resilient, biologically active farming system.

A Shift Rooted in **Soil Health**

Matt's journey began with a desire to further reduce his already modest nitrogen use, which sat between 100 and 130 kg/ha annually. Motivated by environmental responsibility and a belief that further reductions were possible, he partnered with AgriSea to trial a biostimulant-based system designed to activate and enhance the soil's natural biology.

"AgriSea helped me understand that it's not about replacing nitrogen one-for-one," says Matt. "Their biostimulants stimulate soil life—bringing biology back into balance so the soil can function naturally and support pasture growth without needing heavy synthetic inputs."

Real Results: Three Seasons of Impact
Since incorporating AgriSea products into his pasture and soil nutrition plan, Matt has seen measurable benefits across multiple seasons:

Year 1: Reduced nitrogen use to 95 units/ha with no drop in milk or pasture production.

Year 2: Further cut back to 71 units/ha while maintaining output.

Year 3: (current) On track to use just over 50 units/ha total, all while increasing silage production.

In addition to reduced fertiliser use, in Year 2 Matt's farm produced 214kgDM/kgN which is nearly 60% more dry matter per kilogram of nitrogen than the average of his Fonterra Farm Insights Report benchmark group.

Scan here
to watch Matt Rout's video on his farm changes.

What he Uses and **How**

Matt's biostimulant system centres around a strategic mix of AgriSea Soil Nutrition, Pasture Nutrition, and Ocean Nutrition, complemented by Fulvic Acid. Many of his paddocks are planted in diverse pasture species, which he says play a vital role in supporting soil biology and building long-term resilience in the system.

He occasionally includes liquid nitrogen in his foliar applications—but only in small amounts and always in combination with AgriSea biostimulants and Fulvic Acid. This combination enhances the efficiency of nitrogen uptake while significantly reducing environmental losses. The carbon compounds in the biostimulants help bind and complex the nitrogen, creating a more stable and immobile form that's less prone to volatilisation and leaching.

Lower Emmissions, **Greater Efficiency**

AgriSea's approach has also had a powerful impact on Matt's environmental footprint. His biological nitrous oxide emissions from fertiliser have dropped to 0.20 kg CO_2-e/kg MS, compared to a benchmark of 0.30. Non-biological carbon dioxide emissions are down to 0.30 kg CO_2-e/kg MS, well below the 0.50 benchmark.

These reductions highlight the role of biostimulants in climate-smart agriculture, improving efficiency while cutting emissions.

Growing Recognition in the Industry

AgriSea CEO Clare Bradley says New Zealand's dairy sector is increasingly recognising the potential of biostimulants as a vital part of sustainable food production.

"There's now strong evidence from pilot trials and research under the Our Land and Water National Science Challenge that integrating AgriSea biostimulants into farming systems improves nutrient efficiency, reduces costs and emissions, and supports animal and soil health."

With international standards for biostimulants now emerging, their role as a key agricultural input is only growing—and Matt Rout's success story is a testament to their power.

"AgriSea has provided that missing link," Matt says. "I'm producing more with less, improving my soils, and doing right by the environment—and I wouldn't go back."