

Newsletter

EDITION 60, APRIL 2017



PRE-LAMBING CHECKLIST – ARE YOU READY?

Ensuring that your ewes are healthy whilst pregnant, particularly in the late stages, is key to having a successful lambing. Healthy ewes produce healthy lambs – low mortalities (at birth and post-partum), high growth vigour and strong lactation are key to your profits.

To ensure you get the best from your ewes pre-lambing, there are a few essential treatments that should be administered:

2 MONTHS PRE-LAMBING & THROUGH LACTATION

Good quality nutrition, both via supplementation of high quality minerals and vitamins, as well as high energy feed, are crucial to a healthy ewe and foetus. This helps reduce the incidence of issues such as pregnancy toxemia, minimising losses of both ewes and unborn lambs. Further, ewes that are in good condition heading into lactation will have stronger immunity and will produce higher quality colostrum and milk for their progeny.

7-8 WEEKS PRE-LAMBING

Conducting a faecal worm test is good practice to know whether your ewes require a drench prior to lambing. Ewes that are free of worms will have stronger lactations, utilise feed more efficiently and raise healthier lambs. Taking a worm test allows you to drench appropriately for the type of worms, as well as not contributing to worm resistance through unnecessary drenching.

4-6 WEEKS PRE-LAMBING

Ewes must be given a clostridial 6in1 vaccine prior to lambing. This is usually the ewe's yearly booster. Whilst keeping the ewe healthy, this injection is essential to the unborn lamb(s) gaining important passive immunity from disease via the colostrum until they are given their first clostridial at marking time. Post-natal losses can be significantly reduced in the first few weeks of life via the benefits of vaccinating ewes.

Vitamin B12 is also recommended, which can be given in a combination vaccination with 6in1, or in a separate vaccination. Vitamin B12 assists in higher utilisation of energy by the cells, resulting in feed being converted more efficiently for a stronger, higher quality lactation. This is also the best time to drench ewes if the results of the faecal worm test return a positive reading.

Correct pre-lambing health and nutrition is critical to achieving a high lambing percentage. For the small cost of treatments involved, the return on investment to your productivity is substantial. Set a pre-lambing plan in place today!

COME IN AND SEE OUR DEDICATED ANIMAL PRODUCTION TEAM TODAY FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO DISCUSS A TAILORED PLAN FOR YOUR ENTERPRISE

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- FIREFIGHTER PUMP SALE • FACEBOOK: MONTHLY RECAP

AgriWest

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FASTER PASTURE VS MORE AND LONGER-LASTING PASTURE

Reactive Rock Phosphate has a stronger fit in long term pastures.

I attended the GRDC update in Wagga Wagga last month, where over the two-day update of the grains industry, there was one 40-minute presentation entitled 'Better Pastures, Better Crops' that people could choose to attend. It was the most attended presentation over the two days and packed out the lecture hall with interested growers and consultants. It was easy to work out what was on everyone's mind. With the bullish prices for meat and wool at present and low grain prices, many growers are thinking a lot more about the performance of their pastures and how best to leverage the best results for their stock enterprise.

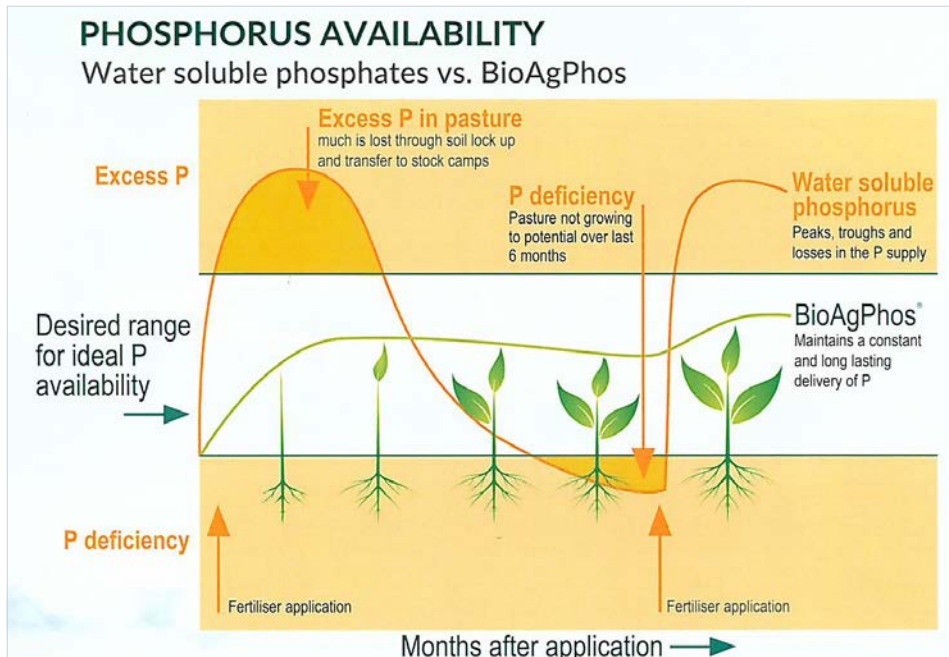
The key nutrients to drive pasture that includes a legume are **phosphorus, calcium** and **sulfur**. Single Superphosphate (P 8.8%, S 11%, Ca 19%) has been the default pasture fertiliser of choice. However, because single super is water soluble, most of the nutrient is readily available all at once. In the case of phosphorus in the soluble form, it will be prone to locking up with other nutrients in the soil and will consequentially be rendered unavailable in a relatively short period of time. Fast results, however not long lasting. The issue is that more phosphorus than actually required by the pasture, becomes available in **one large spike** and then **locks up** leaving a deficiency, as shown in the below diagram.

As displayed, this is where a quality **Reactive Rock Phosphate** can be useful to achieve higher producing and longer lasting pastures. This is because the phosphorus in Reactive Rock Phosphate is in the '**sustained release**' form (citrate soluble) rather than the water soluble form. This means that the phosphorus analysis is released more evenly over a longer period of time, more closely matching the requirements of the pasture, therefore **increasing overall pasture biomass** and **longevity** (see CSIRO trial results below). This means greater meat and wool production over a given grazing period.

An important benefit **Reactive Rock Phosphate** offers over single super is a much higher calcium analysis of 35%, 54% more calcium compared to Single superphosphate. This is obviously helpful for soil health and nodulation success in acid soils. The highest quality **Reactive Rock Phosphate** is Bioagphos from BioAg. The product comes in three main blends - two with added sulfur;

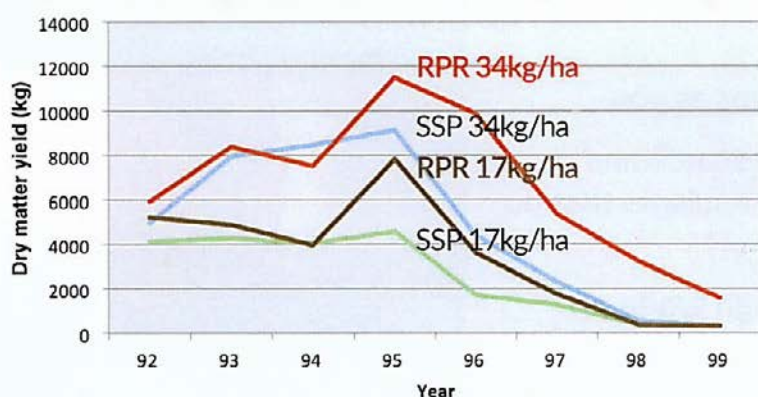
- **BioAgPhos:** P 13%, S 1%, Ca 35%
- **BioAgPhos S:** S10: P 11%, S 10%, Ca 32%
- **BioAg Superb:** P 9%, S 7%, Ca 31%

Compost / BioagPhos Blends: For those utilising compost applications, Bioagphos can also be mixed with Nitrohumus compost at Blayney and shipped straight to farm as a premixed blend.



The role of reactive rock phosphate fertilisers in Australia (Tas.)

CSIRO Publishing, Australian Journal of Experimental Agriculture, 1997



Compared five RPR's & single superphosphate (SSP). Phosphorus applied annually (1992-95). Four different application rates trialed. Dry matter collected annually (1992-99). Nil phosphorus applied (1996-99).

Results

At 17kg/ha RPR produced more dry matter than SSP in every year of the trial. RPR produced more dry matter than SSP once applications of P ceased (1995) until the end of the trial recording period (2000).

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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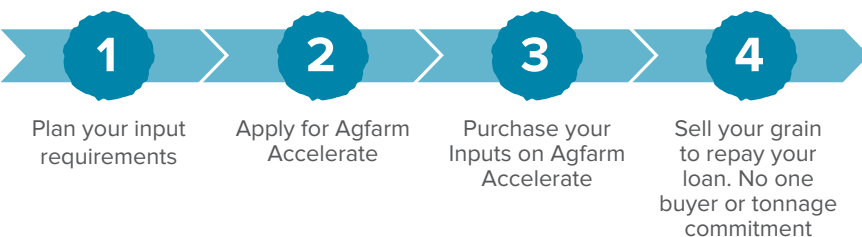
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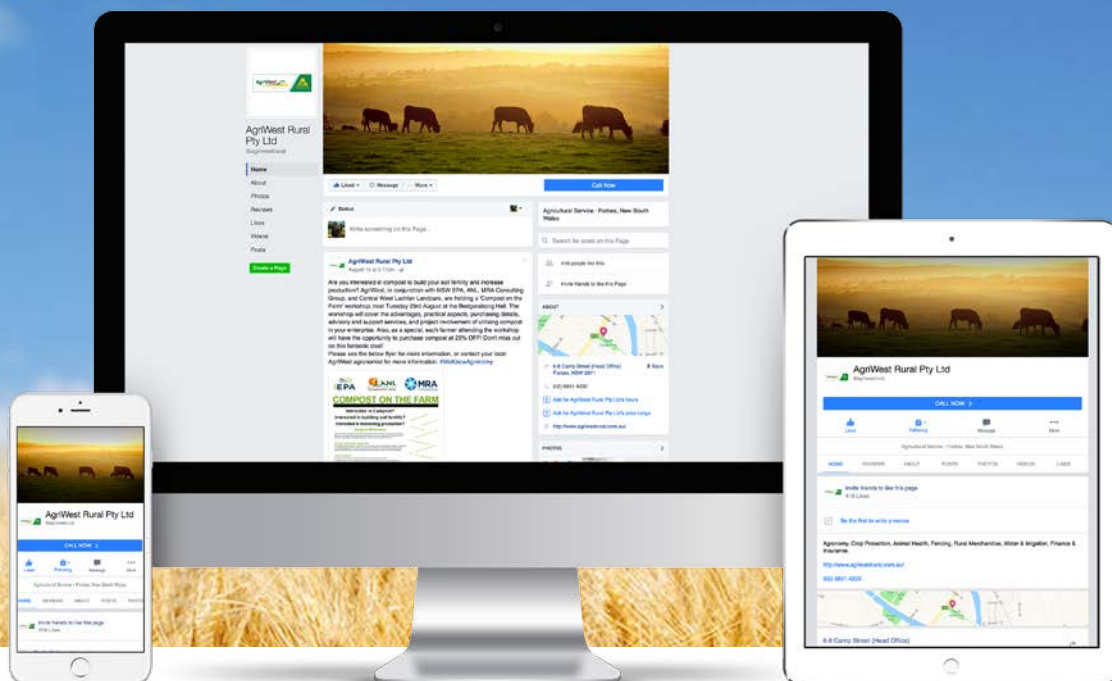
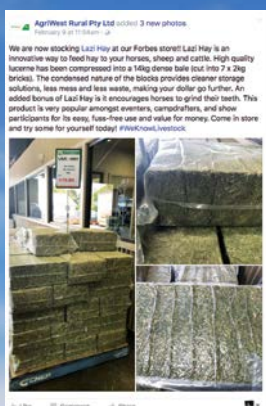
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FACEBOOK: MONTHLY RECAP

Looking for more insights? Our Facebook page is a great way to stay informed. Regular product information and specials, seasonal insights, community events and branch updates – it's all

there at your fingertips! Last month alone we posted about our Autumn specials, pool heating installation, International Women's Day, Agronomy and much more... Check us out and share your thoughts!

Contact an AgriWest specialist today for more information.

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