

Des & Wendy Hart

145 Hectares - 360 grazing heifers
100 head beef cattle - Feilding

Our main focus has always been to care for the stock and care for the land, while maintaining a profitable farming venture. Over the years we have experimented with many different fertilizers, always looking for the best stock growth and health coupled with the best balance for the soil, to give optimum pasture growth.

It wasn't until we bought our Apiti property that we tried dicalcic phosphate. The farm had been previously stocked with sheep and needed a real update of pasture quality and quantity to cope with a high efficiency cattle regime. Dicalcic phosphate, applied once a year at a relatively heavy rate, certainly did the trick and the pasture species and growth improved overnight.

Cattle health was excellent, and even with the cold winters, weights were very good and we made the decision that, with the added advantages of non-leaching and cost effectiveness, dicalcic was what we had been looking for.

When we made the move from the higher country to our present 145ha property near Ohakea air base, we found that dicalcic was equally efficient on the clay based fertile soils that we now owned. Inclined to be boggy in the winter and to dry out in the summer, management was different, but the result was the same; high quality pasture with excellent regrowth and healthy cattle swift to gain weight, and frequently topping the Feilding fat stock sales in their class.

On this farm, as well as our own cattle to fatten, we graze dairy heifers for twelve months, returning them as incalf and close to profit. Our clients are more than happy with their animals' high incalf rates, large size, shiny coats, all round excellent condition and their subsequent performance in the milking shed, and because of this reputation we have had to turn down many offers of extra stock.

On the health side, dicalcic ensures we don't have any metabolic diseases, staggers or bloat, even with the very high levels of clover on the farm. We've never had facial eczema either. The only cattle we drench are the ones that need it, and they receive no more than two doses a year, as healthy cattle can

cope so much better. Less drenching lessens drenching resistance.

Although we have baled ensilage, we have not had to feed out for two years as the pasture, fed by dicalcic, just continues to grow.

Fully plant available, non-leaching, good for plants and animals (including earthworms) long acting, cost effective; we're committed to Hatuma dicalcic phosphate. If it didn't work, we wouldn't be using it.



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