

# Fertiliser Update

Agrii South West  
March 2015

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## Nutrient Planning for Spring 2015

**1. Assess Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) using the Field Assessment method, or alternatively by using the N Min Service, which assesses current levels of N in the soil along with the amount that will become available through the season. The N Min Service is a useful tool in fine tuning nitrogen inputs, and whilst it has been primarily used for combinable crops, it has now been extended to the maize crop.**

Regular soil sampling once in every 4 years will enable you to maintain soil reserves to optimise the efficiency of other nutrient inputs.

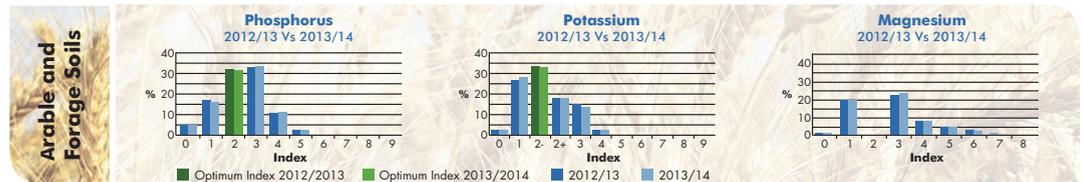
Soil summary data from NRM laboratories indicates that a high proportion of soils are below target indices (see graphs below) We can supply a range of liming materials including the following on a delivered and spread basis:

- + Ground Limestone
- + Limestone Dust

- + Basic Slag
- + Granulated Lime

**3. Slurry and Organic Manure analysis**

As part of your Nutrient Management Plan, analysis of manures and slurries can help maximise the value of this input. An analysis will enable you to take the guesswork out of assessing the nutrient value and help with formulating an accurate recommendation.



Maintaining the correct pH is critical in terms of maximising production with the graph below indicating the effect pH has on NPK availability.

The Effect of Soil pH on the efficiency of NPK availability

pH	pH 4.5	pH 5	pH 5.5	pH 6.0	pH 6.5
N	30%	43%	77%	89%	96%
P	23%	31%	48%	52%	80%
K	33%	52%	77%	100%	

Source: ALA

## How Can We Help?

For more information, or to discuss spring fertiliser requirements, please consult your usual Agrii contact, or call Alistair King on 01884 842833.

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## Origin Grassland Grades: VITA-grass

VITA-grass is a new grassland fertiliser from Origin Fertilisers which provides a balanced supply of NPK and a range of essential micro-nutrients for optimum livestock health.

VITA-grass contains specially formulated selenium, copper and zinc to enrich both pasture and forage and increase the nutritional feeding value of the base diet.

VITA-grass is simple to use, cost effective and avoids additional handling of animals.

### Selenium

Essential for fertility, reproductive health, vitamin E function, optimum weight gain and the prevention of a wide range of diseases and subclinical problems.

### Copper

Vital role in herd fertility, formation of blood components and a wide range of physiological functions.

### Zinc

Semen production, prevention of lameness, reduces incidence of mastitis VITA-grass uses Wolf Trax DDP (dry dispersible powder) technology to coat copper and zinc across 100% of the granules in the fertiliser. This ensures an even distribution in the soil profile, maximum interaction with plant roots and optimum uptake.



Selenium is supplied as Selcote Ultra from New Zealand. UK farm trials have shown it to be a very effective source of selenium.

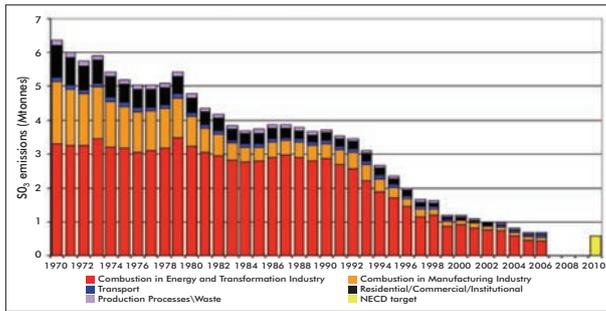
### VITA-grass Product Range

There are two grades in the VITA-grass range, which both contain selenium (Se), copper (Cu) and zinc (Zn).

- + 23-3-5 + 7.5% SO<sub>3</sub> + Se, Cu & Zn
- + 20-5-11 + 7.5% SO<sub>3</sub> + Se, Cu & Zn

# Sulphur in Grass: The Fourth Element

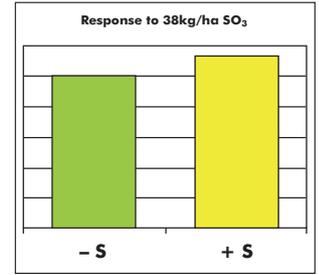
Sulphur is the fourth most important element after N, P and K with large amounts historically being deposited by atmospheric pollution (see diagram below). Pollution levels have fallen dramatically and fertilisers are more commonly used now. Deficiency is increasingly common in cereals, oilseed rape and grass.



Source: NAEI

## New study funded by GrowHow

- + Fully replicated plot trials
- + Site in Warwickshire on silty clay loam soil
- + **Herbage analysis indicated no existing S deficiency**
- + Results still gave 13% DM yield improvement over 2nd & 3rd cuts at 38 kg/ha SO<sub>3</sub>
- + Plus improvements in sugar and protein content

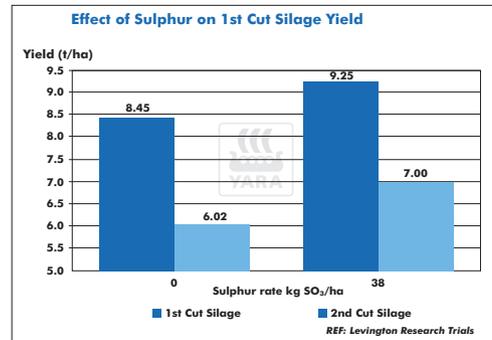


## Effect on N uptake

As well as reducing grass yield, S deficiency affects nitrogen (N) uptake. Research carried out at North Wyke in Devon, has shown that the response to S fertiliser is greater under high N regimes on sandy loam soils – a 35% increase in dry matter (DM) yield at 400kg N/ha, compared with an 11% increase when 200kg/ha N was used.

Good S availability also means the grass can use more of the N, so there is less chance of leaching, especially on lighter soils. Trials recorded a 74% reduction in nitrate leaching after S was applied.

Work from Ireland and Wales has also shown an increase in soluble sugar and true protein levels in grass when S is applied.



## Liquid Fertiliser supply and apply

Agrii operates from a number of locations in Devon and Somerset offering a supply and apply liquid fertiliser service. We supply Omex 26N plus 5SO<sub>3</sub> and at Taunton 30%N

The advantages of liquid fertiliser include;

- + Allows growers to purchase forward
- + No offloading or storage required
- + No bag disposal
- + Accurate application reducing the yield loss on headlands
- + Rapid application in most weather conditions
- + Very competitive
- + Yield increases

## Bagged Fertiliser Supply and Apply

At Willand we continue to provide a professional and reliable contracting service. The fertiliser spreader has been upgraded to allow spreading of bagged fertiliser to a high degree of accuracy coupled with auto steer.

## Fertiliser Store Willand

A range of fertiliser grades are stored at our FIAS approved Willand site, for collection or delivery. We stock GrowHow compounds along with a range of straights to service your requirements.

Nitram	34.5%
Singletop	27N plus 12 SO <sub>3</sub>
Cropmaster Sulphur	27.4.4.plus 7SO <sub>3</sub>
Premiercrop Sulphur	20.8.12 plus 7SO <sub>3</sub>
Kaynitro Sulphur	25.0.13 plus 7SO <sub>3</sub>
Maize Kicka	18.20 plus 27.5SO <sub>3</sub> + Kicka + P Reserve
Mop	
Dap	
Polysulphate	18K 48SO <sub>3</sub> 15CaO plus 6MgO

## Contact Information

For more information: **Alistair King, Regional Fertiliser Manager**

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