

A Tar Heel Farmer . . .

The prime reason for any business is to make money. Lime is the cheapest cost factor that we have, and where needed it will pay more in proportion to the money spent than any production item that I can think of.



B. B. (Ben) Everette,
crops farmer,
Palmyra, N. C.

I've seen the results of proper liming on my own farm. My father used to lime his peanuts, and we would make exceptional yields on the corn and soybeans that we would use in rotation with the peanuts. From this experience I started pulling soil samples on all of my fields every year, and I started liming accordingly.

Based on my own observation, I feel that farmers would benefit tremendously by following recommended liming practices. This is why I hope that everyone will work together to achieve the goals of the lime campaign described in this folder.

It's just common sense to do what you know is going to make money for you.

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Sweeten

your

PROFITS



Join the fight against ACID SOILS

Lime

profit hiker

Proper Liming Can Increase Farm Income By \$40 Million

Your help is needed in the fight against soil acidity in North Carolina. Acid soils are dragging down farm profits and spoiling the beauty of our state.

The Soil Testing Laboratory of the N. C. Department of Agriculture estimates that 2,720,000 tons of lime are needed NOW to sweeten North Carolina's acid soils. Yet, farmers used only 850,000 tons of lime in 1967.

Properly limed soils could return farmers at least another \$40 million annually. This would amount to almost \$300 per farm family, and much of this would be net profit.

Need for Lime Increases

Acid soils are an old problem in North Carolina. But the problem is growing worse. Higher crop yields, higher rates of fertilizer and deeper plowing have increased the appetite of Tar Heel soils for lime.

One million tons of lime are needed each year just to off-set the acidity caused by such things as decaying crop residues and the use of acid-forming fertilizers.

Soil acidity is hard to fight because it works gradually, like a tire that slowly goes flat. Yet, evidence of soil acidity is everywhere: unprofitable pastures in the Mountains, low corn yields in the Piedmont, poor cotton stands in the Sandhills, reduced peanut growth in the Coastal Plain, stunted soybeans in the Tidewater, and unthrifty lawns and gardens all over the state.

Soil Acidity Can Be Licked

Greene County Farmer A. H. Sugg limed part of his soybean acreage in 1967 as recommended by a soil test. The limed portion of his field produced 35 per cent more soybeans than the unlimed portion.

One series of tests in the Piedmont showed that alfalfa yields could be increased up to 300 per cent by proper liming.

Another series of tests in the Coastal Plain showed that proper liming could return farmers \$7 for every dollar spent.

Demonstrations with trellised tomatoes in the Mountains proved that lime could be the difference between a profitable and unprofitable crop.

Because of the acuteness of soil acidity, and the added income that could be expected from proper liming, a massive effort is being launched in North Carolina to do something about this problem.

Lime promotion committees are being organized in each county. Backed by many individuals and organizations, these committees are leading the fight against soil acidity.

How You Can Help

You can help in this fight, and, in fact, your help is earnestly requested.

Familiarize yourself with the seriousness of the soil acidity problem in your area. Acquaint yourself with the farm income gains that could result from proper liming. Learn the key steps to proper liming.

See that your own land is properly limed and use your influence to encourage other land-owners to do the same.

Assist your county lime committee in every way possible. The rewards for your efforts could be many. Properly limed soils will increase farm income. And more farm income will mean a higher level of living for farm families, and more business opportunities for people off the farm. Properly limed soils will mean a more beautiful North Carolina. Lawns, golf courses, and other green areas need lime. Properly limed soils produce healthier plants, and healthier plants mean healthier livestock and healthier people.

THE FIRST STEP TOWARD PROPER
LIMING IS A SOIL TEST