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### **Ohio Beef Checkoff Pass**

Found out just yesterday that the Beef Checkoff Passed. This was submitted by Dave Russell and appeared in the Beef Blog on Tuesday.

By a margin of 72 percent in favor, to 28 percent opposed, Ohio cattlemen have overwhelmingly approved the Ohio Beef Marketing Program Referendum that will increase the state checkoff on cattle from \$1 to \$2.

OCA Executive Director Elizabeth Harsh says the 72 percent voting in support was the result of several factors, from volunteers, to other groups supporting the increase, to the education effort.

“To make sure producers know where the existing checkoff dollars are utilized and then obviously what we could do with additional dollars and why they were needed,” Harsh said.

The final vote – 1,527 votes in favor of the referendum, 591 votes opposed.

### **Pelletized Lime in Production Systems**

I often get calls from people wanting to know where to start when it comes to improving yields from anything to a garden to a hay field. Often the answer will include something about soil testing to find out just what you are dealing with when it comes to nutrients in the soil. The nutrients are important, but the pH is even more important because it affects the ability of nutrients to be available for plant growth. The pH is basically measuring the acidity in the soil. Many plants like a slightly acidic soil in the 6.2 to 6.8 range with 7 being neutral. Above 7 is considered a base or alkaline. It is most common that the pH needs to be raised when land is in production and lime is applied to raise the pH to the proper range.

The following article addresses the use of pelletized lime. The article appeared in last week's C.O.R.N. newsletter and was written by Ed Lentz, OSU Extension Educator. This will help answer questions with using ag lime vs. pelletized lime.

Pelletized lime has been on the market for over ten years in Ohio. It consists of finely ground limestone held together by some form of binding agent to make a pellet. Since it requires more processing than traditional ag lime it often costs considerably more than bulk ag lime. However, since it is in a pellet form it can easily be blended with other fertilizers and applied with regular dry fertilizer equipment.

University research has shown that pelletized lime does not raise soil pH faster than high quality ag lime. This should not be a surprise since high quality ag lime includes a large portion of material this has been finely ground.

Pelletized lime is one of the many sources of lime available to producers in Ohio. When evaluating a pelletized-lime source ask for the analysis sheet to obtain the Effective Neutralizing Power (ENP) value. Ohio lime regulations require liming materials sold in Ohio to have the ENP listed on the analysis sheet. This value should be given as pounds of ENP. The ENP for pelletized lime would be determined on the lime source prior to the pelletizing process.

Effective neutralizing power takes into account all the components that determine the quality of the lime, i.e., neutralizing ability, particle or grind size, and water content. This value will allow a producer to determine the actual price per pound of neutralizing ability for a lime source and also to calculate how much of a source will be needed to equal a ton of recommended lime. For example, if the lime recommendation was for two tons (one ton =

2000 pounds), a lime source with an ENP of 1000 pounds would require an application of four tons to satisfy the two ton lime requirement since for every ton of this lime source it only provides an effective neutralizing ability of 1000 pounds. If the lime source had an ENP of 1500 pounds, it would require an application of 2.7 tons to fulfill the requirement of two ton recommendation of lime. These calculations would also be true for pelletized lime source.

Once a producer knows how much lime needs to be applied for a source they can compare price based on ENP. In other words, a producer can determine how much effective neutralizing material they are actually buying in a source. Also remember if adding lime this spring, consider the following management practices:

- 1) 2 ton applications may be made anytime during the cropping season
- 2) Applications > 2 tons should be split applied
- 3) Do not apply more than 8 tons in one season
- 4) Urea forms of N fertilizer should not be surface applied where lime has recently been surface applied to prevent volatilization losses.

In summary pelletized lime is one of many sources available to Ohio producers. Its ENP value will allow comparisons to other lime sources. Additional information on lime may be found in Soil Acidity and Liming for Agronomic Production Bulletin AGF 505, (<http://agcrops.osu.edu/specialists/fertility/fertility-fact-sheets-and-bulletins/AGF505.pdf>) the Tri-State Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn, Soybeans, Wheat and Alfalfa (<http://ohioline.osu.edu/e2567/>). Possible effects of lime on spring applied herbicide performance can be found at (<http://corn.osu.edu/newsletters/2010/2010-02>).

### **Dates to Remember**

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| April 10 | 20th Annual Southwest Ohio Perennial School in Owensville at the Clermont Co. Extension Office located on the fairgrounds. Registration information and other details can be found at <a href="http://clermont.osu.edu">http://clermont.osu.edu</a> or you can call the Extension Office at 513-732-7070. |
| April 30 | Farm to School Workshop at Mt. Orab Elementary School from 3:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. with a registration deadline of April 20. For details go to my archived articles on the county extension webpage or call Sue Basta at 937-378-4171. County webpage is the (name of the county).osu.edu               |

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