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Lime Time

It will soon be time to consider applying lime if your soil needs it. The first step is to get a soil sample done. It is useful to get more detail than just the normal P, K and pH analysis as more detail will allow you to better address any shortages of trace elements. A detailed analysis will also allow you to identify which type of lime to use. Soils that have high levels of Calcium may benefit from using Mag Lime which contains magnesium. [Read more](#)



Red Tractor

Are you keeping adequate Records? [Read more](#)



What Can I Feed My Cows Instead of Soya

With more and more pressure being brought on the dairy industry, rightly or wrongly, to reduce or remove soya from its diets, what are our alternatives to feeding soya?

Soya is primarily there as a source of protein, that is energy dense (which allows more room for more forage etc.), with high levels of Bypass or DUP (Digestible Undegradable Protein) protein. [Read more](#)

A Tale of Two Herds

Recently I visited two autumn calving dairy farms. The herds varied from 500 to 650 cows, yielding 8,500 – 11,000 litres per cow, milk from forage 0 – 4,000 litres per cow and cost of production 22 - 32ppl. There were a lot of commonalities but also huge differences.

The herd with the highest milk yield from forage was the lowest cost system at 22ppl (it was a very simple well-run farm with a plan and vision as to where it was going. Investment was focused on appreciating assets. [Read more](#)

Did you know....

DBL actively uses social media to help keep members and Direct customers up to date with all the latest news, offers and articles plus information and special pieces from our preferred partners and suppliers. [Read more](#)



Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) Key Dates - August, September

Make sure you keep to Nitrate Vulnerable Zone rules by following the dates below for applications of organic manure with a high, readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) and manufactured nitrogen fertilisers. [Read more](#)

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