

# MILLE LACS SOIL SERVICE



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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OCTOBER 2022

### Not all Calcium is the Same

Plants need the appropriate amount of calcium to grow the best crops but not all lime is the same. Most AgLime tests out around 19% Ca and 11% Mg Beet Lime tests around 31% Ca and .08Mg Why does this matter? What I've found in local soil samples (from Dairyland) is that Base Saturation tends to be above 76% Ca and below 18% Mg, There is a direct correlation when you increase Ca by 1% you decrease the Mg by 1%, so by adding AgLime you may not be increasing the Ca as much as you need and also may not be lowering your Mg as much as you need. If you experience tighter soil that tends to hold water (clearly not in a drought stricken year), that is one sign to low calcium or high magnesium... or both.

### The Construction of Your pH Levels

Ph is made up of mainly Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, and Sodium  
If your pH looks good it doesn't mean you have the correct Calcium and vice versa, I have seen several samples that show they have plenty of calcium but the results are calling for more Lime based on a low pH, if this is the case you may need to look into your Magnesium and Potash levels.

### Pre-Buying Seed

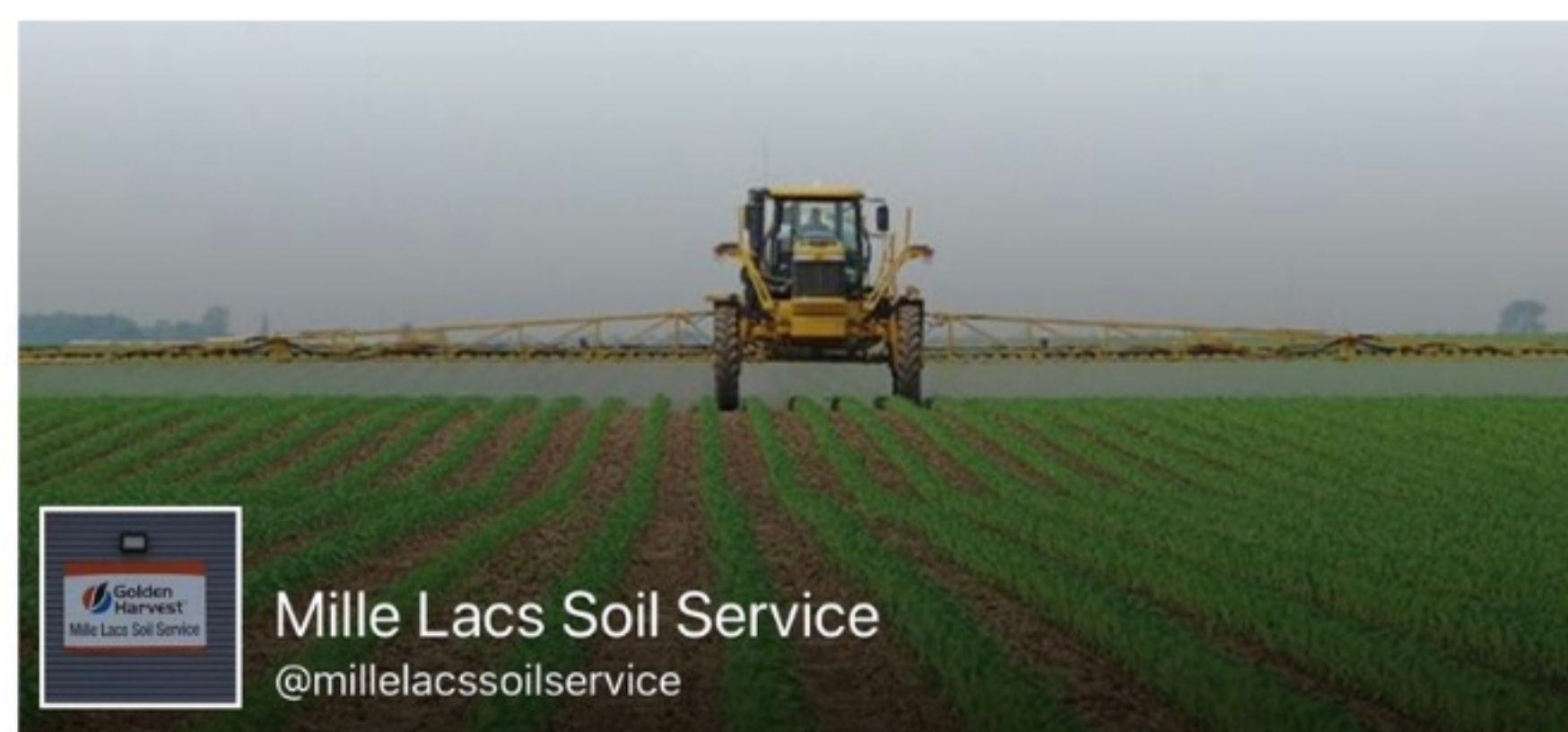
With increasing costs for fertilizer there is also increased costs for many other items in the farming world. One of those items is seed, rumor is that seed will be increasing next year so if we can help secure some orders ahead of time that will help keep your costs down.

For seed prices contact Matt or Todd at 320.294.5511.

### FSA DATES & REMINDERS

Nothing for the Month of October,  
Check Back in November!

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Continued on Backside.

## Fall Spread Potash

Fall potash price is \$795 per ton with a \$8 application per acre fee.

Potassium is essential to producing high soybean yields. Potassium reduces the severity of several soybean diseases and insects. A fall application will allow more time for fertilizer to move deeper into the root zone. Growers that chisel plow their corn stalks may also benefit by fall application, the chisel plow will incorporate the fertilizer uniformly and provide deeper placement into the soil, deeper placement benefits if the surface soils become dry and reduce potassium diffusion and uptake.

Because of workload, dry soils, and fertilizer availability, fall is typically the best time to apply potassium and phosphorus to corn crops. For environmental reasons, fall is the best time because there is a low risk of phosphorus run off. When maintaining phosphorus and potassium levels, replace what is used by the crop each year. Every bushel of corn harvested removes the equivalent of 0.37 pounds of phosphorus and 0.28 pounds of potassium. It is common to apply phosphorus and potassium fertilizer once every two years of crop production. In a corn-soybean crop rotation, all of the potassium can be applied after soybean harvest in the fall ahead of corn. Enough potassium will be returned to the soil from the corn residue for the soybean crop in the rotation. Fall applications may be more practical and efficient than spring applications on fine textured soil. Fall applications are not usually recommended for organic or coarse textured soils.

### JOKE OF THE MONTH

An old farmer had a wife who nagged him non-stop. From morning until night, she was always complaining and nagging about something.

The only time he got any relief was when he was out plowing with his old mule so he made sure he tried to plow as much as possible.

One day, he was out plowing when his wife brought him his lunch out to the field. He drove the mule into the shade, sat down on a tree stump, and began to eat his lunch. His wife then began nagging him again. Nag, nag, nag, it just went on and on. Then suddenly, the mule lashed out with both back legs. He caught her smack in the back of the head killing her straight away. At

the funeral a few days later, the minister noticed something strange. Whenever a woman mourner went to talk to the old farmer, he'd listen for a minute, then nod his head in agreement.

But when a male mourner talked to him, he'd listen for a minute, then shake his head. This was so consistent, the minister decided to ask the old farmer about it. So after the funeral, he spoke to the farmer, and asked him why he nodded his head and agreed with the women, but always shook his head and disagreed with all the men.

The old farmer said: "Well, the women would come up and say something about how nice my wife looked, or how pretty her dress was, so I'd nod my head in agreement."

"And what about the men?" the minister asked.

"They all wanted to know if the mule was for sale."

*Thank You All For Your Patronage!*