

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

November 2, 2021



*An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain
Conservation District*

Liming to adjust soil pH

Liquid Lime vs Pelletized Lime

By: Abigail Crawford, USDA-NRCS (Mena)

In the previous issue of the "Polk County Grazier" (http://www.rmcd.org/uploads/7/0/3/1/7031879/pol_k_county_grazier_enewsletter_19oct2021.pdf) we discussed the effects of liming to adjust soil pH. It was mentioned that pelletized and liquid lime are options as well. In this article we will go over the advantages, disadvantages, and the cost of using the pelletized versus liquid lime.

Liquid Lime:

Liquid lime, or "lime suspension", is a liming option where available commercially. Liquid lime is a micronized form of calcium carbonate (lime) suspended in a surfactant. The formulation is approximately 50 percent high quality dry Ag lime and 50 percent water. Liquid lime does come with its advantages and disadvantages. Its advantages include fast soil reaction, no dust, ability to combine with liquid fertilizers (except for phosphorus), and ease of a uniform application. Its disadvantages include the potential need for annual application, potential for higher cost than conventional liming, and difficulty in getting large pH changes with relatively light applications of lime.

With liquid lime, more frequent lime applications are often needed since liquid lime reacts quicker than a dry lime source. It's important to also know that the rate may not be high enough to correct all the reserve acidity. Under-liming is more likely to occur due to spread rate; however, one must be very careful of the rate at which the liquid lime is applied.



Pelletized Lime:

Pelletized limestone, also known as pelletized lime, results from crushing limestone rock into a powder and then pelletizing the material. By undergoing the pelletization process, the product still maintains the quick dissolving benefits found in powdered lime. The resulting product is also easier to spread and less dusty than regular ground limestone. Pelletized lime has been widely adopted in the lawn and garden sector, but its potential high cost has limited its widespread use in agriculture. Its advantages are found in the convenience and ease of spreading. It is a source of high-quality lime and can be blended with dry fertilizers. The

disadvantages include higher cost than traditional calcitic or dolomitic lime. The liming effect is also localized in the area around the granule or pellet. Pelletized lime also only lasts about a year.



Lime Prices:

For Liquid Lime: it takes approximately 2.5 gallons/acre to raise the pH by 0.6 and 5 gallons/acre to raise the pH by 1.3. This action takes six weeks to affect the pH and only lasts about a year. Liquid lime is considered a “temporary fix”. The pricing depends on the brand of liquid lime used.

Liquid Calcium	\$44.99/gallon
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For Pelletized Lime: most is sold in 40-pound bags. If your soil test calls for 2,000 pounds/acre you would need 50 of the 40-pound bags to meet your needed liming requirement.

Local farm store	40lbs/\$6.00	40lb x 50 bags	\$300/2,000lbs
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For Ag Lime:

Local lime vendor*	\$38.30/2,000lbs
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*Price covers lime, freight, and spreading in Mena. The further distance from Mena the higher the price.

As you can see, the costs of the liquid and pelletized lime will far exceed the cost of applying ag lime. Because of this cost difference, using liquid or pelletized lime are not economical on most farms except for very small areas such as wildlife food plots and gardens.

LOOK -----→The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced the signup deadline for the 2022 EQIP program for November 19, 2021. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to implement conservation plans that address natural resource concerns. Typical plans include practices for pasture, forest, and animal waste management as well as energy efficiency improvements in poultry houses. For graziers, this is an excellent opportunity to add cross fences and water supplies for better grazing management. In Polk and Montgomery Counties, contact the NRCS office at (479)437-6054 for more information or come

by the office at 508 7th Street in Mena to sign up.

Upcoming Grazing Meetings and Seminars:

- ⇒ **TODAY! November 2, 2021— Believe it or Not: 3-wire Electric Deer Fence (1PM—online seminar)** you are invited to attend the weekly grazing training sessions by Jeremy Huff, the USDA/NRCS state grazing specialist. He offers these training sessions as a Zoom meeting and the instructions for logging in are included in attached flyer. If you have the Zoom app on your phone you can just scan the QR code on the flyer. If you want to watch the presentation on your computer there is a link included in the attachment. The sessions normally every Tuesday at 1pm so **see the attached flyer.**

- ⇒ **November 8, 2021 – Pesticide Applicator Training (10am or 5pm at the**

Wickes Community Center (by housing authority) Please call Polk County Extension (479)394-6018 to register. This training is required to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides in Arkansas.

⇒ **November 9, 2021— NAP Insurance for Arkansas Pastures (1PM—online seminar)** see attached flyer for more information.

⇒ **November 16, 2021— Acorn Poisoning in Cattle (1PM—online seminar)** see attached flyer for more information.

⇒ **November 30, 2021— Grazing Management to Meet Animal Performance Targets (1PM—online seminar)** see attached flyer for more information.

⇒ **February 8, 10, 15, 17, 2022 – Forage Management from the Ground Up Training (times and location to be announced)** Please call Polk County Extension (479)394-6018 to register or for more information. This training is four sessions

(Session 1-Soils and Nutrients, Session 2-Pastures, Session 3-Extending Grazing, and Session 4-Weeds). Cost is \$15/session or \$40 for all four.

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Sent on behalf of the Rich Mtn Conservation District.
Thanks for your interest in grazing management and conservation,

Steve Swall

District Conservationist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mena Service Center (Polk & Montgomery Counties)

(479)437-6054