

MEDIA RELEASE

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Patented product gets nationwide launch

Ballance Agri-Nutrients is going nationwide with its breakthrough coated urea product pasturezeal G2 after being granted a patent that protects its scientific processes.

The product has been under refinement at the company's plant in Morrinsville since 2005, and has been trialled in the North Island, principally in the Waikato. The Morrinsville plant has recently completed a \$2m upgrade to boost production of pasturezeal G2 annually.

The key to pasturezeal G2 is Ballance's now-patented coated urea process, which makes it possible to blend urea with superphosphate-based products, as well as sulphur and potash, for use in a single application of nutrients.

'One of the biggest challenges our customers faced in the past was in getting good quantities of both phosphate and nitrogen on the land in one single application,' says Ballance Head of Agro-Sciences, Warwick Catto.

'It is extremely pleasing to see many years research and investment have resulted in a new product that will benefit farmers.

'Until recently, there has not been a truly stable, cost-effective solution to this problem. Now, nearly all of the products in the pasturezeal G2 range supply nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), sulphur (S), magnesium (Mg) and calcium (Ca).'

'Our n-rich urea has always been an extremely cost-effective way to add nitrogen to pasture, but we needed a technology that would enable us to mix it with superphosphate, even though these two products are chemically incompatible.

'Ballance scientists have created an exceptional process that applies a protective coating to urea. This coating means that urea can be mixed with superphosphate-based products without the risk of undesirable reactions. Importantly, once on the land the urea performs just as well with the coating as it does without.'

Eventually, pasturezeal G2 could be used to replace application of high-analysis fertilisers such as DAP and MAP to pasture, thereby saving on imported costs by using urea from Ballance's plant at Kapuni (DAP: diammonium phosphate; MAP: monoammonium phosphate). Longer term, there is potential to use the coated urea technology for other nutrient applications.

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The pasturezeal G2 range of products is suitable for the majority of farm types throughout the country. There are products for dairy and drystock farmers, for those farming on specific soil types, and for boosting hay or silage crops.

It can be safely stored on-farm for up to two weeks, giving farmers greater flexibility when it comes to application times.

Farmers looking for a safe way to apply sulphur this autumn could benefit from applying one of the pasturezeal G2 products focused on delivering S, supplying this nutrient in both the readily plant-available sulphate form, and in the elemental form, which is slowly released through the growing season. Products containing elemental S are suitable for autumn application, since in this form the S is not vulnerable to loss by leaching.

More information on this product range is available from your local Ballance Technical Sales Representative on 0800 222 090.