

Date: June 1st 2016.

For immediate release:

Low pH will compromise yield and quality – plan your liming now!

The British Survey of Fertiliser Practice for crop year 2015 demonstrates the continuation of the low levels of liming in both arable and grassland rotations, as shown in Table 1:

Table 1: BSFP survey data showing average national lime use by rotation.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	5 yr avg
All tillage	8.4	9.8	7.4	8.7	8.0	8.5
All grass	4.1	2.7	3.0	4.0	3.1	3.4

The 5 year averages show just 3.4% liming in grassland and 8.5% liming in arable rotations

This is equivalent to liming grassland on a 30 year cycle and arable land on a 12 year cycle!

– does this feel sustainable?

Furthermore, data collected via the PAAG 2015 survey from **173000** soil samples showed 56% of grassland and 19% of arable land tested at or below pH 6.0.

These levels will impact significantly on the utilisation of costly N, P and K and other nutrients!

Table 2: The impact of low pH on macro-nutrient efficiency.

Soil pH	Nutrient efficiency (utilisation)		
	N	P	K
4.5	30%	23%	33%
5.0	53%	34%	52%
5.5	77%	48%	77%
6.0	89%	52%	100%
7.0	100%	100%	100%

(Source: 'pH' by Dr. C.Synder)

Routine pH testing is required to ensure consequential loss of yield and quality is avoided by maintaining soil pH at an appropriate level.

Ignoring soil pH and available calcium can prove to be a very costly mistake even in the short to medium term.

LimeX offers very fast acting, but lasting pH correction in arable and grassland rotations, and can be used in organic farming systems. Furthermore, the integral nutrient package within LimeX contributes to maintaining soil fertility and increases available calcium. A 'maintenance' application of LimeX70 at 5/t ha will supply a minimum of:

- 50kg P₂O₅
 - 35kg MgO
 - 30kg SO₃
- typically worth at least £50 per hectare.

LimeX is available to order now for summer 2016, or for back-loading during the sugar beet processing season!

For more information on LimeX please contact 0870 2402314, or visit: limex.co.uk

Ends.

For more information please contact:

Richard Cogman, LimeX Manager, richard.cogman@britishsugar.com

Tel: 01733 422085 or 07850 369840.