Agricultural Limestone in Kentucky

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AGRICULTURAL LIMESTONE IN KENTUCKY

Kentucky farmers invested about $6 million in agricultural limestone in 1964. However, much more lime than this should have been used if farmers get the most economical crop production and the most efficient use of fertilizers that are applied or the fertility that is already in the soil.

Farmers are not using as much limestone as they should because they have not, in the past, got the crop response or the reduction in soil acidity they expected. One of the reasons for this is that the material, in many cases, has been too coarsely ground.

Research in Kentucky and many other states has shown that agricultural limestone, to be effective, must be ground fine enough that at least 80 per cent will pass a 10 mesh screen and at least 40 per cent will pass a 60 mesh screen, and have at least 80 per cent neutralizing value.

These standards are established as the minimum values for agricultural limestone. Any material that falls very far short of these standards will not give expected results unless heavier applications are made.

There are quarries in Kentucky that are producing agricultural limestone equal to the above standards. More quarries will install equipment to produce such limestone soon. Thus some farmers can get good agricultural limestone now and more will be able to get it in the future.

When purchasing agricultural limestone farmers should make an effort to get a material that meets the above standards.

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(To simplify information in this publication, trade names of some products are used. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not named.)