

# Farming Software Package does 50 Operations

**Version 1.2**

19 February 2009 Copyright© 1990 GrazingInfo Ltd

## Introduction

This package of separate spreadsheets helps with more farming operations than any other software package and does some farming calculations that no other software does.

They are simple to use on any computer with a spreadsheet program and if necessary can be altered to suit your farm. The few instructions that are necessary are on each template (mostly on the right) making learning and operating fast. No instructions book is needed.

I find that very few farmers know how much it costs to grow pasture and crops, or how much it costs to keep a cow for a year. If you don't have figures how do you know if you are improving? If you don't improve, you can go backwards.

## Testimonials

Waikato dairy farmer Craig Brown emailed, "Very useful. Feed Budget is very good & has all the relevant and other useful information. Being spreadsheets means you can tweak them to your requirements. An excellent buy."

Craig Benbow, Applied Management and Computing Division, Lincoln Agricultural University, Christchurch, New Zealand, wrote, "I appraised VJ spreadsheets and found them comprehensive and easy to use".

## Description

Farmers' requirements vary, so they can adjust the spreadsheets to suit their operation.

For USA some templates are in both hectares and acres or kg and lbs so whichever is entered applies while some spreadsheets have been written separately in kg and ha and in pounds and acres.

The price for the 50 spreadsheets is only NZ\$200 about US\$120. GS Tax is not added so can't be claimed.

In New Zealand the first year depreciation tax saving on software is 48%, which is NZ\$96, and NZ\$50 in the second year, etc., so after income tax savings the final cost is very low.

Some of the following are within others.

1 Read before using spreadsheets.doc

Weight Gains Beef lb.xls

Animal Units.xls

Animal Weight Gains.xls

Beef Weight Gains kg.xls

Beef Weight Gains lbs.xls

Blood and liver levelsV1.3.xls

Borrowing and Investing.xls

Budget Profit EFS.xls

Business cards.xls

Calculate areas and cubes.xls

Calving to Match Growth.xls

Cash Flow Dairy.xls

Cash Flow Drystock.xls

Conversion Calculator.xls

Dairy #Cows For Max Profit kg.xls  
Dairy #Cows For Max Profit lb.xls  
Dairy Heifer Grazing Off.xls  
Dairy Heifer Rearing Costs.xls  
Dairy Heifer Target Wts kg.xls  
Dairy Heifer Target Wts lb.xls  
Dairy Production per Cow Target.xls  
Dairy profits per cow.xls  
Farm details 1 05~08.xls  
Farm Records2008.xls  
Feed Budget Beef kg.xls  
Feed Budget Beef lb.xls  
Feed Budget Dairy kg.xls  
Feed Budget Dairy lb.xls  
Fert and effluent values.xls  
Fert Application Accuracy.xls  
Fert Beef P Rates.xls  
Fert Compatibility Mixing.xls  
Fert Nitrogen DM Returns kg.xls  
Fert Nitrogen DM Returns lb.xls  
Fertiliser Order kg.xls  
Fertiliser Order lb.xls  
Fertiliser P analyses.xls  
Fertiliser P Profit Taranaki.xls  
Gestations Pulses Temps2.xls  
Grazing40Percent Rule kg.xls  
Grazing40Percent Rule.xls  
Interactions Soils Pastures.xls  
Investments Off-farm.xls  
Invoice.xls  
Irrigation Calculations.xls  
Land Prices Effect on Costs.xls  
Mineral feeding.xls  
Nitrogen cost DM.xls  
Overdraft Vs Loan costs.xls  
Pasture Analyses Stats.xls  
Pasture Analysis.xls  
Pasture Elements By Season.xls  
Pasture Fertiliser Lime trials kg.xls  
Pasture Fertiliser Lime trials lb.xls  
Pasture Silage Hay Crop costs.xls  
Pasture yields and values.xls  
Pedigree Form.xls  
Rearing Costs of Animals.xls  
Tractor Operating Times.xls  
Water Analyses.xls  
Weight Gains Beef kg.xls1 Read before using spreadsheets.doc  
Weight Gains Beef lb.xls  
1 Read before using spreadsheets.pages

Animal Units.xls  
Animal Weight Gains.xls  
Beef Weight Gains kg.xls  
Beef Weight Gains lbs.xls  
Blood and liver levelsV1.3.xls  
Borrowing and Investing.xls  
Budget Profit EFS.xls  
Business cards.xls  
Calculate areas and cubes.xls  
Calving to Match Growth.xls  
Cash Flow Dairy.xls  
Cash Flow Drystock.xls  
Conversion Calculator.xls  
Dairy #Cows For Max Profit kg.xls  
Dairy #Cows For Max Profit lb.xls  
Dairy Heifer Grazing Off.xls  
Dairy Heifer Rearing Costs.xls  
Dairy Heifer Target Wts kg.xls  
Dairy Heifer Target Wts lb.xls  
Dairy Production per Cow Target.xls  
Dairy profits per cow.xls  
Farm details 1 05~08.xls  
Farm Records2008.xls  
Feed Budget Beef kg.xls  
Feed Budget Beef lb.xls  
Feed Budget Dairy kg.xls  
Feed Budget Dairy lb.xls  
Fert and effluent values.xls  
Fert Application Accuracy.xls  
Fert Beef P Rates.xls  
Fert Compatibility Mixing.xls  
Fert Nitrogen DM Returns kg.xls  
Fert Nitrogen DM Returns lb.xls  
Fertiliser Order kg.xls  
Fertiliser Order lb.xls  
Fertiliser P analyses.xls  
Fertiliser P Profit Taranaki.xls  
Gestations Pulses Temps2.xls  
Grazing40Percent Rule kg.xls  
Grazing40Percent Rule.xls  
Interactions Soils Pastures.xls  
Investments Off-farm.xls  
Invoice.xls  
Irrigation Calculations.xls  
Land Prices Effect on Costs.xls  
Mineral feeding.xls  
Nitrogen cost DM.xls  
Overdraft Vs Loan costs.xls  
Pasture Analyses Stats.xls

Pasture Analysis.xls  
Pasture Elements By Season.xls  
Pasture Fertiliser Lime trials kg.xls  
Pasture Fertiliser Lime trials lb.xls  
Pasture Silage Hay Crop costs.xls  
Pasture yields and values.xls  
Pedigree Form.xls  
Rearing Costs of Animals.xls  
Tractor Operating Times.xls  
Water Analyses.xls  
Weight Gains Beef kg.xls1 Read before using spreadsheets.doc  
Weight Gains Beef lb.xls

The following explains some of them.

You can adjust all spreadsheets to suit your farming.

The Conversion Calculator converts metric to imperial and Celsius/Fahrenheit both ways, exchange rates, times in countries, monitoring urea spreading, mineral weights to feed, tractor time/ha & acre & areas covered and many more.

Cow Data and Earnings by Fat + Protein - Litres, age and weight corrected. It selects most profitable cows to keep and breed from or cull which is something not all herd testing organisations do. It can use LIC or Fonterra payout projections. It was written before the LIC Breeding Worth. In fact I suggested to Dr Brian Wickham of Livestock Improvement Corporation in 1986 that this system was needed. They released BW seven years later, but with complications which they have since improved.

Crop & Pasture Production Costs & Returns. Your farm and costs can be entered.

Dairy Feed Budget. Record monthly (or more frequent) pasture cover and growth, and helps budget feeding of pasture, hay, silage and grain, giving stocks of each remaining after each period. Helps decide when to harvest and when to cull. Gives expected production, so if not being achieved, reasons can be sought. Gives eye assessing methods and figures in DM.

Dairy Heifer Grazing Off Costs, Target weights (essential to ensure optimum size) and Financial benefits.

Dairy Production & Earnings/Milking cow from grain. US and NZ figures.

Element requirements shows how much should be in pastures.

Farm Profit and per hectare or per acre to compare profits between years and between farms.

Farm Statistics. Records farm, paddock, grazing, fertilising and any other statistics.

Beef Feed Budget. Records monthly (or more frequent) pasture cover and growth, and helps budget feeding of pasture, hay, silage and grain, giving stocks of each remaining after each period. Helps decide when to harvest and when to cull. Gives expected production, so if not being achieved, reasons can be sought. Gives eye assessing methods and figures in dry matter.

Fertiliser Order. Calculates fertiliser and element costs, and after income tax cost.

Fertiliser Phosphate Recommendations based on production of dairy farms and dry-stock farms. These figures are required to be recorded in some EU countries and may be required here in the future.

Fertiliser Phosphate Returns showing the financial benefits of capital dressings.

Fertiliser Values by kg of phosphate and other elements in main fertilisers.

Invoice. Adjust to suit. It does GST or sales tax if required.

Land Prices Effect on Costs. Calculates the land cost share of milk, meat and wool.

Loan to Overdraft Ratio. Helps work out optimum overdraft/loan levels.

Maximum Production. 40% rule for optimum milk and/or meat production.

Maximum Profit. Calculates the optimum number of cows to milk for maximum overall profit from pasture.

Minerals Soluble Feeding. Feeding minerals is important when grazing. This shows how much to feed through the drinking water.

Off-farm Investments show the returns possible. My best-ever dairy farmer client didn't want to milk more than 120 cows and didn't want to move from his 35 hectare farm with a nice home, pool, etc., near Matamata where he and his wife had friends and relatives so at my recommendation they borrowed against their farm and bought several rental properties and are now better off than had they bought a bigger farm. He still has the pleasure of milking his 120 top cows. He has recently bought three race horses he is training as a hobby on his farm.

Pasture Analyses Records of annual figures.

Pasture Analysis. Shows optimums and effects of low and high levels.

Pedigree Form. Lists three generations. Easily increased and personalised for your stud.

Production per Cow Targets. Allows corrective action to be taken as soon as possible.

Trial returns from different fertilisers, pasture species, subsoiling, etc.

Volume, Area & Silage for tanks, silage, etc.

Weight Gains/Animal and/Area.

If you would like a special one written for your farm or business please let us know and describe it. There is unlikely to be a charge if we can include it with ours.

## **Background**

Vaughan Jones as a farmer and consultant found it important to use and show spreadsheets to clients so they can be factual and accurate in their decisions of how many cows to milk based on each farm, not on area averages, how much and which fertilisers to use based on their pasture analyses. The profits of many clients in several countries increased and many purchased the package. One of his clients in New Zealand and two in Japan won 'Most Profitable Farms of the Year' awards. One in USA has gone from milking 90 cows to 700 all grazed. One in Canada went from losing money milking 600 cows to milking 300 cows grazed, with less bought feed, so more profitable.

**Phil Taylor**, Ngaroma, Central North Island, New Zealand, wrote on graze-1, an internet farming discussion group.

After being totally confused about fertilisers on my Taupo ash soils, I explained my problems to Vaughan Jones at a chance meeting with him in 1992. He visited my farm, saw the thatch, the Yorkshire fog, the few small-leaved clovers and the animal health problems, took pasture samples and recommended lime – which was usually not recommended in this area. The farm soon greened up and started improving. Neighbours noticed it.

The fertilisers he recommended based on information in his Excel spreadsheets were no more expensive than previous ones we had used. After two years of applications of Sechura reactive phosphate with the necessary trace elements, animal health problems almost ceased, earthworm activity increased so that dung patches quickly turned into 60 cm (2 ft) diameter green patches, grazing was much more even, thatch started disappearing, and the previously shallow roots penetrated to 25 cm (10 inches) or more.

Contrastingly green urine and dung patches in the early spring didn't show up because all was greener, and without the use of artificial Nitrogen. Clovers made more N, giving the whole farm a green look which made it stand out. Later, during the three years of beef downturn I applied no fertiliser, and yet I still had 17 NZ stock units per ha (1.2 US/a), and all except a handful of cattle went

away prime within 18 months and lambs at around 17 kg (37 lb) dressed weight. The lime and slow release fertilisers recommended by Vaughan had kept working.

Vaughan Jones is a very well respected consultant in the Waikato. I know a number of farmers who have made a lot of money using his advice.

Phil Taylor

Beef and sheep farmer.

End

The above and hundreds of other successes were achieved using some of the spreadsheets above.

Subscribe to [www.grazinginfo.com](http://www.grazinginfo.com) > Spreadsheets.

They are Copyright© 1990 GrazingInfo Ltd and have been improved since then.