

NEWSLETTER NO.4 , NOV 2014

It is in Spring, between October and December, when cows produce the most milk. This is also a very important time for mating. The cows' health and well-being is most important, as a healthy cow will cycle well.

Spring is also the time of year that many farm races and tracks deteriorate. When the race surface starts to break down, farmers can often feel the hard stones through their gumboots. Usually, if the races around the cowshed become boggy, stones will start to appear on the yard of the milking shed, brought through on the cows' hooves. This is a sign that the race is breaking down, and that before long you are likely to have lameness issues.

A good guideline for avoiding up to 90 percent of lameness, is to single out the wet spots on your farm race and apply StockRock to these areas as a minimum. StockRock doesn't wear to form hard stones. When you look down the farm race from the cow shed, identify the wet boggy areas. These are the areas which should first be cleaned and then covered with StockRock, eliminating the source of stones to be carried onto the milking shed yard, and avoiding lame cows over the coming months.



StockRock in dry storage for year-round availability

StockRock can be laid at any time of the year. Product is stored in covered sheds at the Blue Pacific Minerals' Ngakuru Quarry, ensuring year-round consistency in StockRock moisture levels and grade quality for spreading.

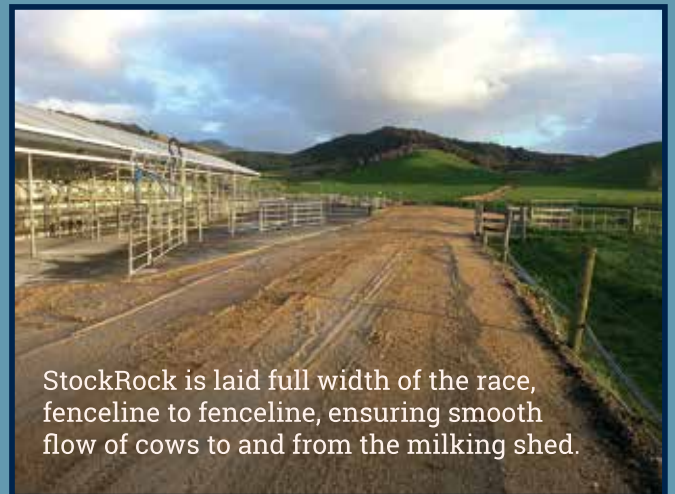
Two grades of StockRock are available : SR100 to meet the needs of high intensity stock traffic ie. within 200m of the cowshed, and SR65, to meet the requirements of less densely stocked farm areas (but is not a substitute for SR100 on high stock pressure areas). You can use the StockRock calculator on our website : www.stockrock.co.nz/calculator to estimate the cost for the supply-only option of StockRock for your farm race. Request a quote from the website, and Shane will be in touch with you to discuss supply-and-delivery, or installation options for StockRock.

Spread StockRock fenceline to fenceline, full race width

When laid as recommended, a StockRock farm race will provide a high quality, soft, long-lasting working surface for all stock.

The key steps for a successful installation are

- (1) **Measure**, fenceline to fenceline,
- (2) **Clean and Clear** the area removing all soft material, mud and potholes,
- (3) **Re-shape** the race surface using a grader,
- (4) **Lay StockRock** at 180mm depth, fenceline to fenceline, full width of the race,
- (5) **Track Roll** once shaped, prior to compacting with a roller, and
- (6) **Compact** using a 4-5 tonne vibrating roller. The finished compacted depth of 120mm must be maintained over the full width of the race.



StockRock is laid full width of the race, fenceline to fenceline, ensuring smooth flow of cows to and from the milking shed.

Christmas Promotion

Sign up before 16 December 2014 for supply-delivery-and-install of StockRock for your yards or farm races between now and end of February 2015, and on confirmation of your booking (before 16 December) you may choose, **either**

- 1) one tonne of **Optimate - the natural stock feed optimiser** to help your stock maintain good health and wellbeing, and productive health and wellbeing as we head into summer (value \$550), delivery or pickup to be arranged separately, **or**
- 2) a Christmas Hamper (value \$150), to enjoy at your Christmas Day celebrations.

CALL US ON 0800 88 55 55

or visit our website www.stockrock.co.nz

* IMPROVE COW FLOW * NO MORE LAME COWS *

StockRock was introduced onto the Holmes Family Trust farm at Matamata in 2008. Terry and Michael Holmes requested StockRock for a 200m length of race from their new cow shed.

Two years later, they put in a concrete Feed Pad. StockRock was installed at the entry and exists to the Feed Pad. In January 2014, another section of StockRock was applied over an existing sand race on the farm. In September, the original 200m StockRock race was extended a further 140m, and for the first time in six years, worn patches on the original StockRock surface were topped up.

Michael says, "We put our first piece of StockRock down six years ago. With StockRock, I've noticed how quick the races dry out after a wet period - hours compared to days on the conventional race - and also how when the cows hit the StockRock on the race they spread right out and walk on the whole race, which in turn delivers them to the shed quicker."



Cows move effortlessly along a StockRock race after milking.

CALL US ON 0800 88 55 55

or visit our website www.stockrock.co.nz