

10 'Commandments' for Swamp Management

- 1. DRAINAGE !!** Keep the main drain water level around 750mm below paddock level if possible, or a minimum of at least 500mm. All drains and channels should be kept clean and free flowing.
- 2. DRAINAGE !!** Only apply the water you need—use Irrigauges and turn water off in time—do not over water—wet boggy soil does not grow feed.
- 3. DRAINAGE !!** Ensure all check banks are kept intact—double fence—keep stock off—no leakage of surface water to side drains.
- 4. DRAINAGE !!** Use mole drains only where drainage is a problem—slow draining paddocks or wet boggy areas in paddocks.
- 5. Use your ELMA water**—At least one irrigation a year can help prevent soil problems such as acid sulphate soil, soil structure collapse and loss of all important organic matter.
- 6. Only use the fertiliser you need**—save money and water quality.
- 7. Don't water the fertiliser in, especially nitrogen**, apply fertiliser after water as soon as you can get on the paddock, it will diffuse into the soil.
- 8. Let the manure sit in the sun before watering**—hold off watering for 3 days if you can after grazing.
- 9. Grow feed, lots of it**—lots of feed uses lots of fertiliser and water, feeds lots of livestock and puts lots of organic matter back into the soil for better drainage (it also helps prevent acid sulphate soil and other soil problems). Green feed can be anything you can grow—pasture, lucerne, Sulla, paspalum, kikuyu, medic, summer crops—try different rotations.
- 10. Use feed supplements to eat more green feed**—supplements help you run more livestock and better feed them, especially energy.

TIP: Have you checked a drain today ??

Look for signs of poor flow—weeds growing in the bottom of the drain, bank collapses, "rubbish" in the bottom—clean them!

For more information contact: Monique White on 0400 972 206 or monique@dairysa.com.au



Your Levy at Work



CARING
FOR
OUR
COUNTRY