



Aglime Quarterly

What's Happening
OFAC CAPCA Meeting
Tulare
August 16

CAPCA
Disneyland
October 21-23



Size Matters

Size matters when it comes to agricultural limestone products. Particle (mesh) size and chemical composition are primary factors that determine the effectiveness of an aglime product. Coarse products react slowly and less completely. A finely ground product is more effective. Particle size influences the speed in which the liming material is dissolved.

Comparing liming materials can be difficult. One standard to examine is the Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (CCE). This is the acid neutralizing value for a liming material relative to pure calcium carbonate (CaCo_3), which has a CCE value of 100. The higher CCE value will have greater effectiveness than a product with a lower number. A low CCE number translates into more tons needed per acre, more cost to purchase, ship and spread.

Consider this: If each aglime product listed below were priced at \$25 for CCE 100, \$23 for CCE 80, and \$21 for CCE 60 per ton, you can see the product with the higher CCE is a much better value.

CCE of a Lime Material	Price per ton Lime Material	Tons needed to equal one ton of pure CaCo_3	Cost of lime needed to equal one ton of pure CaCo_3
100	\$25	1	\$25.00
80	\$23	1.25	\$28.75
60	\$21	1.67	\$35.07

Blue Mountain Minerals = Value

Blue Mountain Minerals agricultural limestone and dolomitic limestone are naturally occurring and are processed without chemicals. The agricultural limestone and dolomitic limestone purity can vary from stone to stone. This is why at Blue Mountain Minerals our agricultural product labels state a range of quality with a minimum and a maximum. We regularly test our products to make certain we maintain the quality as stated.

Agricultural Limestone

- Calcium Carbonate Equivalent CCE 96.3 to 102.3

Agricultural Dolomitic Limestone

- Calcium Carbonate Equivalent CCE 101.3 to 107.0

Most aglime is composed of calcium and magnesium carbonates. Magnesium Carbonate has a CCE value of 109, higher than Calcium Carbonate at 100, making it more effective.

References:

* Cornell University Agronomy Fact Sheet Series

**IPNI Soil Fertility Manual