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"Is Basic Slag any good?"

Its got a liming neutralising value of around 50%- similar to ag-lime. Its coarser and takes longer to break down than ag-lime. Its got about 2% phosphate though (about 40 units a tonne) and trace elements like sulphur (7 units a tonne) and manganese which are plus points. Its also got Magnesium (up to 200 units /tonne) and up to 390 units/tonne of Iron oxide. The Iron and Magnesium are said to be very slowly available.

"What about granular lime?"

Its got its advantages- it corrects and adjusts pH very quickly because its made from micronised powder that's been compressed into a prill and this breaks down very quickly in the soil. Once applied however there's nothing that breaks down over time so you'll have to use it more regularly than ordinary limestone- which makes it a much more expensive way of maintaining soil pH at the target level of 6-6.5

"I usually put the same fertiliser on every year with a few loads of muck, isn't that good enough?"

If you know what P and K is in your soil to start with and you get a good idea whats in your muck you can start planning fertiliser inputs tailored to individual fields (soil type) and according to crop type e.g grazing or silage. So you need to analyse your soil and muck and start from there with a little bit of help from a FACTS registered advisor. You should then be able to draw up a fertiliser policy that meets soil and crop needs and makes nutrient management and inputs more efficient- you'll be applying no more than the crop needs and wasting less through more timely applications of muck and/or other inputs. Get a plan!