

# Improved soil, better weight gains and fertility

By Paul Schneider Jr., AG-USA

My dad, Paul Schneider Sr., is a retired animal nutritionist. He worked with farmers primarily in Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. Although he valued university testing, he preferred the results from "Farmer University."

It is one thing for a university to say your product works, but when so many of your customers consistently have good results, that is where the rubber meets the road.

## John and Elaine, GA

John and Elaine have an 1,100 acre cow/calf operation. They initially applied MycorrPlus soil amendment (formerly GroPal Balance) in July of 2016 to help address a compaction problem.

This is now their 3<sup>rd</sup> year of using MycorrPlus (my-core-plus). Not only did it help eliminate their compaction, but they saw a lot of other benefits as well. Here is what they reported:

**Nov. 2016** (four months after application). "What we are seeing is that the pasture is beginning to be thicker. A friend of ours that has had the same amount of rain has run out of grass and is feeding hay, while we have more grass than we can actually use for the number of cattle that we have."

"The compaction is getting better. Before MycorrPlus we had a lot of runoff, but not as much now. I believe this decrease in compaction is one of the reasons the rain is going in better, causing the grass to do better. I am really excited about what MycorrPlus is doing for us."

**Feb. 2017** (7 months after application): "I believe the sea minerals in MycorrPlus will increase fertility. We have Heifers.

Last year we had 5 sets of paternal twins, which is unheard of. Last year our 208 cows bred 224 calves."

"Our cows bred in a shorter period of time last year, and this year 110 out of 159 were born in the first 30 days of calving. The sea minerals in MycorrPlus really make a difference in re-breeding!"

"Last spring we had 10 calves in the barn, but this year just one. Over the winter our calves haven't drawn down, but are very fit. Our cows are the best looking they have ever been in mid-February. They should be a 500 or 600 weight for re-breeding, and they are already a 6."

## Feb. 2018 interview with Elaine

### Fertility - stronger heats

**Paul:** So, you said that on a scale of 1 to 5 of being ready for insemination, 33 out of 38 of your calves were 5's in February?

**Elaine:** These calves were born primarily in January and February of last year. Our Reproductive Specialist here in Georgia just hasn't seen 5's before in February. And he said, "Oh man, would this group of heifers do good on artificial insemination." But I just use the bull.

**Paul:** When you have most all of your calves being born within a months' time, it means that the heats are stronger, so that there's more consistency.

**Elaine:** The heats are stronger, they're cycling together and their reproductive tracts are already developed.

**Paul:** Other customers have also seen this. We had a dairy in Canada where he said, "It normally takes me 3 months to breed half the herd. But with your product it was done in two weeks."

**Elaine:** Exactly. And the closer together you can get those calves on the ground, the better uniformity, the better price you will get for your calves when you sell them in a truck load, which is the way we sell them.

**Paul:** So, they are ready in February, but they're normally not ready until April?

**Elaine:** Normally we don't even check them until March. They don't even go in with the bull until April.

### Calves gaining weight faster

**Paul:** And these heifers, in February, they are already 8's, 800 weights?

**Elaine:** Yes, most of them are already 8 weights; the young man that was with the Reproductive Specialist said, "How old are these heifers?" I said, "They were born last January, February and March.

**Paul:** And so within a year, they are already 800 weights? That's amazing!

**Elaine:** Yes. Remember, I called you in September and told you about the weaning rate, how many I had that weaned at 600 pounds?

I had 43 heifers that weaned off of their mothers at 633 pounds. That was roughly at 207 days old.

**Paul:** These are weight gains usually seen by farmers who feed grain.

**Elaine:** My goal is to wean a 700-750 pound calf. And a 750 pound calf is usually when they go in to the feed lot. So many people wean calves at 300-400 pounds.

(Editor's note: Let's review what Elaine said. A year and a half after using MycorrPlus to build up their soil, John and Elaine observed that, whereas it normally took their calves until April to reach 600 to 700 weight, in Feb. of 2018 their calves were an 800 weight. This means that their calves have gained

in less than 10 months what it normally takes 12 months to achieve. I believe that part of this can be attributed to Elaine's wise choice concerning the genetics of her bulls. However, Elaine attributes a lot of it to MycorrPlus. What would faster weight gains mean for your operation?)

### Elaine's calves are breeding a month earlier each year

**Paul:** It is now February. You told me that most of your calves were born in January?

**Elaine:** They come in thirds; January, February and March is when they come. And last year, the majority of them came in January and February. This is now the third year that we've been on MycorrPlus, and most came in January.

**Paul:** So, you said you are going to start breeding early and go to calves being born in November instead of January?

**Elaine:** Next year I'm going to put the bulls in by March 1<sup>st</sup>, and then the following year I'm going to put them in February 1<sup>st</sup>.

And like I said, I was so excited when the Reproductive Specialist said, "What are you doing to get these cows to cycle like this?" I said, "It's their diet. The mamas are on the grass, the babies are on the grass, the babies are grazing right along with the mamas. It's just their diet. But it is a reproductive increase coming from MycorrPlus."

**Paul:** Yes, it's the nutrients in the grass.

**Elaine:** Its MycorrPlus, the balancing of the soil. Anyway, I just wanted to tell you the good news. I was so excited, I wanted to tell you!

**Paul:** Thank you, Elaine.

### Summary

John and Elaine have Solomon like wisdom in their understanding of their cow/calf operation. No wonder 10 of their friends have followed their advice and are now using MycorrPlus on their pastures and hay fields.

Many of our customers tell us their cows can't keep up with their grass; this means a potentially higher stocking rate. Just like John and Elaine, MycorrPlus can help improve your soil, and help you achieve better weight gains and animal fertility.

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