



AGRICULTURAL LIME ACTIVITIES

Leiths produce and supply Calcium Agricultural Lime from the following locations:

- Lugton Lime Works, Lugton nr Kilmarnock
- Middleton Lime Works, North Middleton, Gorebridge, Midlothian
- Highland Lime, Torlundy, Fort William
- Parkmore Quarry, Dufftown

Agricultural Calcium Lime is spread on farmers fields to neutralise the PH of the soil and the quality of this lime and all liming materials is controlled by the Fertiliser Regulations 1977.

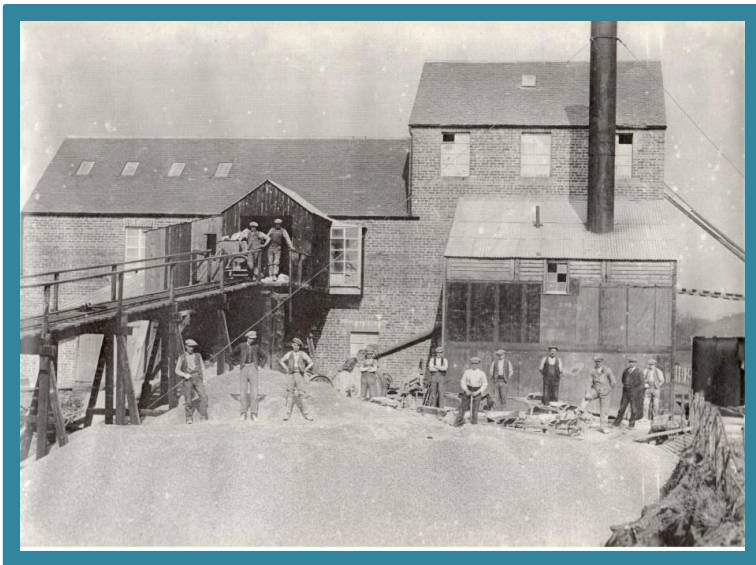
The Calcium Lime produced at Lugton Lime Works is declared as Screened Limestone Dust, as the term "Agricultural Lime" alone is insufficient. This, along with the determined neutralising value and fineness, must be declared under the regulations.

Leith's have the relative expertise and accreditation to carry out the tests to determine both neutralising value (NV) and fineness in their own UKAS accredited laboratories.

THE HISTORY OF LEITHS AND AGRICULTURAL LIME

The name Lugton Lime (James Reid & Co) has been synonymous with lime spreading for most of the twentieth century. The lime was manufactured by a milling process at Lugton after extraction from the quarries at Hesshillhead and Treane, both of which are located at Beith in Ayrshire.

Lugton Lime was used Scotland wide.



Lugton Lime Works, circa 1930

DO YOU USE LIME?

If not you are probably losing money. One thing the Agricultural Experts throughout the country are agreed upon, is the necessity of applying lime to the soil. A soil that is too acid will not grow good crops. The existence of certain diseases in plants, notably finger and toe in turnips, &c., has been clearly shown to be due to a deficiency of lime in the soil, while the existence of certain weeds, such as spurrey, sorrel, &c., is a sure indication that the soil needs lime. It is a mistake to think that you make up for liming by using more active artificial manures. As a matter of fact the more ammonia and superphosphate used, the more it becomes necessary to use lime also. Lime is an essential plant food, and without it soil cannot produce good crops. The best form to use is

PURE CARBONATE OF LIME.

The use of this material is in this country of comparatively recent date; but its superiority over burnt lime is now fully recognised. All the leading authorities recommend it, and farmers who have once tried it become regular users. It is fully equal to burnt lime as a sweetener of the soil, while at the same time it has the following merits in addition—it has no caustic action and does not destroy the nitrogen-fixing bacteria in the soil. When brought in contact with manure or chemical fertilisers it does not liberate or drive off the ammonia content. Unlike burnt lime it is immediately available as plant food without having to undergo chemical reaction. It may be applied with manure or chemical fertilisers and combines with clay and breaks it into a free loam, at the same time releasing its stored potash.

The winter is a good time to apply as it is slowly and evenly washed downwards by winter rains and worked downwards by after cultivation, so that the whole soil is greatly benefited. The application of Carbonate of Lime is an investment that will give good returns. Price, delivered any station in Kirkcubrightshire or Wigtownshire,

Per 30/- Ton.

JAMES REID & CO., Ltd.
Lugton Lime Works,
LUGTON, AYRSHIRE.

30/- a Ton

The lime produced was sold on primarily through merchants and distributed by both road and rail, (note the merchants address on the building), and very little was sold directly onto the farm.

In the late 1970's the government of the time reduced the money available for grants in agricultural liming and this therefore had an effect on lime use.



The reduction in the use of Scottish Calcium Lime and the ready availability of Magnesium Lime from Derbyshire promoted a rapid decline in demand from the lime works in Lugton and this, coupled with ever increasing productions costs, led to the decision to cease production and thereafter concentrate on the lime filler side of the business.



Mr James Reid (left) of James Reid & Co, owner of Lugton Lime Works

TODAY

It is well documented that the use of Magnesium Lime over the years since its popularity was at its height, has upset the chemical balance in the soil. Whilst Magnesium Lime has a high neutralising value that quickly restores soil PH, it also has the effect of ‘taking over’ from other trace elements, calcium being only one of those. It has now once again become popular to spread Calcium Lime as a liming agent.

Leith's have been involved in lime production in the north of Scotland for many years so the acquisition of Howie Minerals Ltd (Lugton Lime, Middleton Lime and Highland Lime) was an opportunity to revisit the production of Calcium Lime for agricultural spreading in the southern half of Scotland.

The ability to produce an “in specification” product was now something that could be done direct at the quarry face with the advent of modern crushing and screening techniques. This had a direct implication on production costs making the prospect of producing screened limestone dust an attractive possibility.

This has since proved to be the case with our Calcium Limestone product once again being spread in west central Scotland.



Screened Limestone Dust Production at Lugton Lime

The network of southern agricultural merchants that were still involved in liming was quite strong so the word soon spread that “LUGTON LIME” was back on the market and there has been a steady increase in demand with one merchant in particular taking the bulk of our product to market.

We can now store screened limestone dust in either the quarry, if heaped correctly to prevent water ingress, or at the lime works in one of our large storage sheds. Our storage shed at Lugton has dust suppression that improves material handling and, as a result of that, there are beneficial effects for the spreading operation giving the SLD a dampish texture that prevents dust clouds in the countryside whilst spreading is taking place.



Lugton Lime Works 2010



**Lime Spreading in the modern age
with GPS**

As the demand once again grows for Calcium Lime for agricultural use, we have to be very aware of product quality. Today’s farmers are highly trained in soil husbandry and will not accept an inferior product.

We will have to manage our reserves to ensure that we extract quality material suitable for purpose and from that we continue to grow our market share.