

Successful Farming with ECTOL

Dairy Farmers, Tony and Kath Hogan, **Merrigum, Victoria**



“ Our property is more environmentally friendly, producing healthy plants, crops and animals – it's better for the family too. ”

Tony Hogan,
Merrigum, Victoria



Challenge

Tony and Kath Hogan, based in Merrigum, Victoria, have been successful dairy farmers for many years. The Hogan's were conventional in their practice of applying nutrients to pastures, lucerne and fodder crops, using superphosphate, DAP, MAP and urea.

However, after years of using acidic fertiliser and chemicals, the Hogan's became concerned about the impact these products and practices may be having on their soil, animal and family's health.

In 2011, Tony and Kath explored their options to transition to regenerative farming practices, looking to replace the products they'd been using for decades with more natural options.

Application

At this time, the Hogan's completed a trial in spring on two paddocks side-by-side, one using 5 litres of **ECTOL Protect and Grow** and 5 litres of **NitrotainTE** and the other with nothing.

Over the course of next 2-3 months the Hogan's saw a noticeable difference between the two paddocks, with the **ECTOL/NitrotainTE** combination clearly outperforming the other.

As such, Tony and Kath began the process of transitioning their property to use **ECTOL Plant and Crop Nutrients** exclusively, phasing out the use of acidic fertilisers and chemicals.

In the last 8 years, the Hogan's have tried many application rates. Last spring, they applied 3 litres of **ECTOL Protect & Grow**, 10 litres of **ECTOL-Starter** and 10 litres of **NitrotainTE**, which has boosted the quality and yield of their pasture.

Outcome

Overall, Tony and Kath are extremely happy with the transition to **ECTOL Plant & Crop Nutrients**. The on-farm benefits include:

Reduced costs

- Regular, bi-annual use of **ECTOL Plant & Crop Nutrients** in spring and autumn has improved soil health, keeping inputs down
- The use of other fertiliser products has been removed, including insecticides and fungicides, making the property more environmentally friendly

Improved irrigation

- Regular, bi-annual use application of **ECTOL Plant & Crop Nutrients** has allowed the root system of the plants to penetrate to a deeper level
- The property is now watered approximately every 21 days, compared with every 7-14 days

Tony and Kath wanted to maintain a successful farm, which was more environmentally friendly. From continued, exclusive use of **ECTOL Plant & Crop Nutrients**, the Hogan's property has not only remained very productive, it is now seen as a benchmark for some of the highest quality cattle and pastures in the region, with people asking, what are they doing differently?

*"We knew it was time to change our traditional practices and haven't looked back. With **ECTOL Plant & Crop Nutrients**, we've been able to remove all chemical fertiliser use from the property, which has saved us money in farm inputs annually, whilst still boosting production. Our property is more environmentally friendly, producing healthy plants, crops and animals - it's better for the family too". Tony Hogan*

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