

**N.L.I. Report Stresses Land's Mineral Need**

The United States is especially fortunate to be on land originally heavily fortified with two of the most important elements for all plant and animal life — calcium and magnesium. While the humid area was being depleted by the heavy rainfall, it was not until the inhabitants learned how to "mine" the soil that real significant losses occurred. Then, although cultivated crops removed substantial amounts of calcium and magnesium, the staggering losses of these important elements were brought about by leaching and erosion, according to a recent report by the National Limestone Institute.

It wasn't long before the agricultural colleges found that, generally speaking, our land was heavily endowed with underlying limestone. This had only to be ground or burned and spread on the fields to replenish these elements. Since the eighteenth century, first farmers and then industry specialists have been providing literally millions of tons of limestone for soil application.

The general use of calcium and magnesium carbonate

(ground or pulverized agricultural limestone) today is applied at the annual rate of 26 million tons. Its prime purpose is to neutralize the soil acidity which builds up as this material has been removed and to restore the plant food elements Ca (calcium and Mg (magnesium). While calcium is by far the most important, where needed, the magnesium is equally as important, the report continues

Calcium not only promotes better plant growth and, through them, animal health and growth, but is of vital concern to humans. Nearly everyone realizes calcium is the foundation of the human skeleton. However, few realize that it is also the foundation of our blood, muscles and nervous system. It has been hailed by medical men as well as agronomists as the most important single element for all life.

The draft proved conclusively during the war years that this vital element should not be overlooked, the Institute says. Draftees from sections

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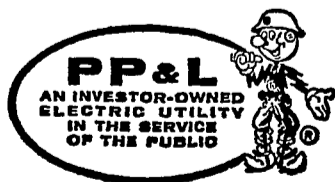
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