

Quality, Not Color
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equivalent. The highest quality runs up to about 109% CaCO₃ equivalent. This is due to the fact that magnesium carbonate (MgCO₃) has a higher atomic weight than calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) and hence the MgCO₃ is given a weight of 1.18 in converting it to CaCO₃.

Limestones vary in color ranging from pure white to black and including blue, brown, gray, green, red, yellow, etc. Many a farmer today buys

aglime by color—not by quality. He has grown up and used aglime of a specific color and any other color is an inferior product to him. In one area farmers demand a white aglime, in another area they prefer the gray material, and in other areas some other color will be called for based on personal prejudice and preconceived notions.

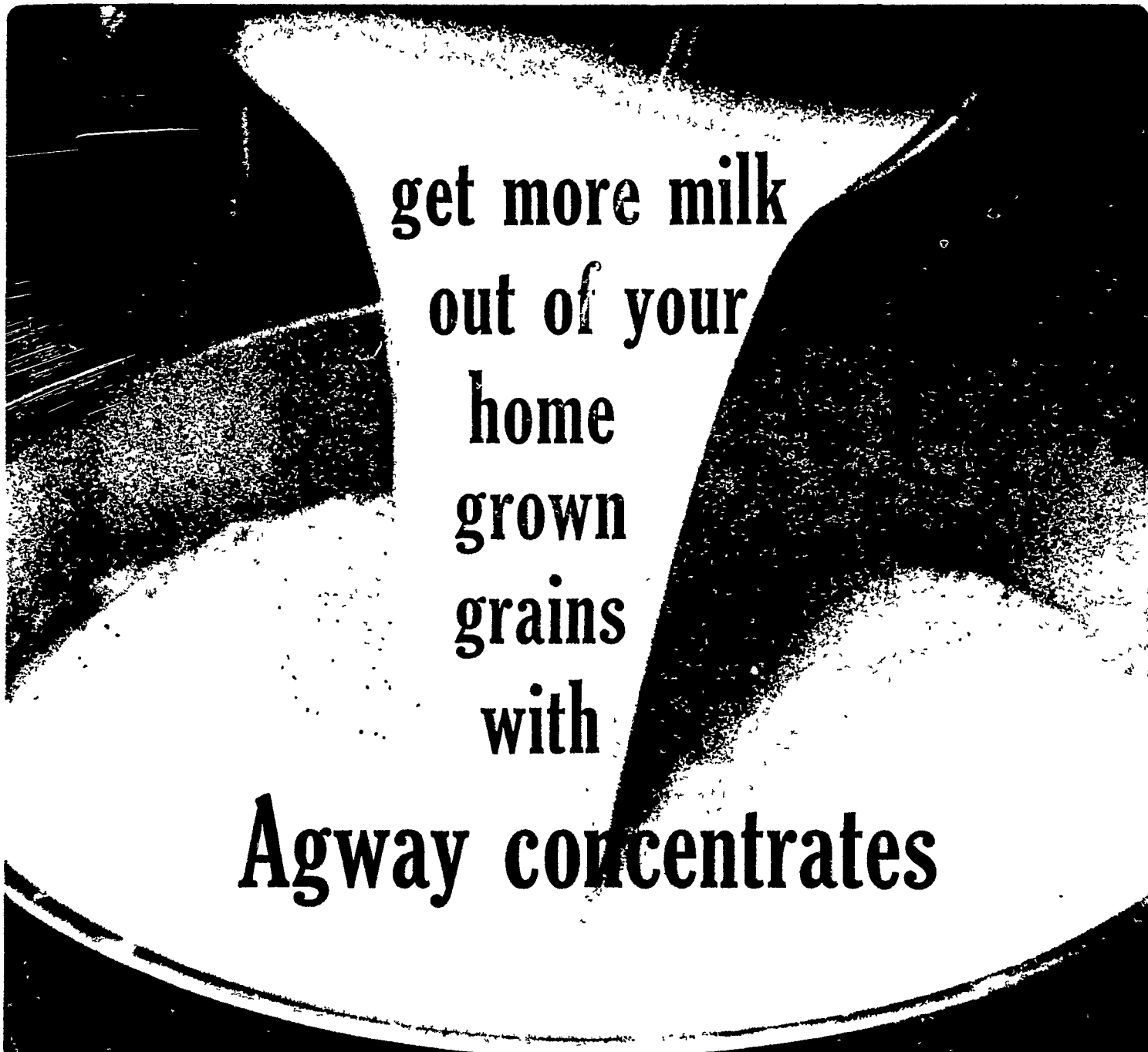
In discussing this personal preference with a quarryman recently, he indicated that his quarry had three predominant colors of limestone — off-white, dark gray and red. The whitest

material tested 82% CaCO₃ equivalent, the grey 89.5% CaCO₃ and the red 95% CaCO₃ and all colors were reduced to the same fineness. Trucks coming to this plant would not take the red material because the farmers would not accept it, even though its neutralizing value was over 15% higher than the white material which the farmers wanted.

While personal preference may lead farmers to select one

material over another, this theory should be discarded. They should ask the producer or seller of the material for the chemical and mechanical specifications of the available materials and then be guided by the chemical analysis, the fineness and the price of the product. The material should be selected for its price per unit of soil neutralizing or plant food value. Are you buying your aglime by color or quality?

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