

Don't waste your waste



SlurryBugs being poured in the HerdHome at Paul and Karen Tunnah's farm at Balclutha.

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Farmers can control soil fertility and save money on fertiliser by using the true nutrient potential of dairy effluent, EnviroSystems managing director Liz Russell says.

The company launched SlurryBugs, a product aiming to capture those nutrients, at Fieldays.

It's a biological effluent treatment containing aerobic bacteria combined with micro-nutrients which work to retain the nutrients in farm effluent during storage.

This in turn creates a quality fertiliser to be used onfarm.

Most of the nitrogen excreted

from cows is in urine but is lost because it is broken down into ammonia by the enzyme urease, which is contained in the faeces.

The combination of bacteria and enzymes in SlurryBugs works to retain that nitrogen by capturing the ammonia in the effluent, which is then fixed in a

stable form becoming organic nitrogen.

United Kingdom research has shown it retains up to 70% of the nitrogen in the urine that would normally be lost to the atmosphere.

Using the product will reduce fertiliser costs by at least 33% in the first year, Russell says.

"You will get a three to one return on investment. Some farmers are making a seven to one return."

Researcher Dr Maria Fernanda Aller, who was also at Fieldays, says while NZ farmers wanted to be clean and green they were contaminating the environment by putting on additional nutrients.

Retaining the nitrogen in effluent also had a positive effect on reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

Russell says it's best to treat when the storage is low to allow the bacteria to grow and then continue to treat fresh effluent.

For \$200 a 1kg pot of SlurryBugs and 11 bottles of Slurry Booster will treat 450,000 litres of effluent.

For further information visit www.envirosystems.co.uk or email info@envirosystems.co.uk.