

Benefits to Using Humic Acid

By Laurie Seale

Over my 30 years of deer farming, I have struggled with Ecoli and Fusobacteria buildup in my soil. My soil is clay-based so, unfortunately, it holds the bacteria and water more than sandy soil does. Optimizer Gel has greatly improved the Ecoli issue in my fawns, but unfortunately that product does not include any prevention for Fusobacteria. I have tried numerous vaccines for both diseases in my years of deer farming and can literally say most of the vaccines have cost me tons of money without much success. In the past ten years, I have been vaccinating my does in April for Fusobacteria. In 2020, I chose to not vaccinate my does. I gave them NO vaccines. Instead, after reading all the benefits to Humic Acid for herd health, I chose to spread fast-acting Humic Acid on all of my pens by a local supplier. He also suggested I spread Gypsum on my pens. I took his advice. Within 2-3 hours, we were able to have all of my 22 acres spread. On the last pen we spread, there was quite a bit of product still left so we emptied the truck in that last pen.

During the fawning season, I had very few issues with Fusobacteria despite not having vaccinated. I also noticed a huge improvement in the overall fawn health with the exception of the pen where we spread the Humic Acid and the Gypsum very heavy. In the fall of 2020, I did soil samples in two of the pens. One pen that I chose to do a soil sample on was the one that received a high volume of product and where I lost half of my fawns. The other pen I chose was one that had a very high fawn survival rate. I wanted to see what might have contributed to the problem. The pen where too much product was spread ended up being almost twice as high in iron than the other pen.

It was explained to me that the Gypsum flushes the trace minerals loose from the soil.

More than 300 lbs. per acre, trace minerals are flushed in excessive amounts. Too much Gypsum and not enough Humic Acid, most likely caused the iron in the soil to be too highly concentrated on the top of the soil. Ecoli feeds on iron, therefore I most likely lost half the fawns in that pen due to the high iron brought to the top of the soil which fed the Ecoli.

After receiving the results of the soil samples, it still showed my pens high in iron. I chose to spread the course-grade Humic Acid which is slow-acting. It is a cheaper product and should be readily available by spring just in time for fawning season. As always, it is important to continue taking soil samples to know what your pens need. Due to the large volume of urine and feces that builds up over time, our pens most likely will

need more Humic Acid than farmland. Something to keep in mind is Humic Acid offers way more benefits than lime.

Lime will increase the PH levels, but Humic Acid does the same thing *and* improves herd health.

Time will tell with our research at Apple Creek Whitetails if it will also be beneficial to help/prevent CWD in our pens. It's exciting times for sure!

We will have a speaker at our meeting at The Three Bears to discuss in detail more about the benefits of Humic Acid so plan to attend to learn more about the benefits of this product. We will also be discussing the research we are conducting with Humic Acid and CWD.



Magna PLUS
PREMIUM GRANULE

OMRI

Magna Plus is a durable, fertilizer-compatible granule which is partially solubilized for rapid release and availability in any soil type

- Available in fine and course grade
- Contains 50% humic acid; 3% fulvic acid (HPTA method)
- Suitable as a stand-alone amendment or in blends with fertilizers or other dry inputs
- Compatible with a wide range of fertilizers including urea
- Recommended broadcast use rate of 20-75 lbs/ac



Alpha PLUS
PREMIUM LIQUID

OMRI

Alpha Plus is designed for convenience and efficiency in any farm operation

- Contains 3.5% humic acid; 1.5% fulvic acid (HPTA method)
- Ideal choice for liquid starter fertilizer and liquid side-dress applications
- Compatible with a wide range of liquid fertilizers including phosphoric acid-based fertilizers
- Not suitable for blends containing calcium nitrate
- Recommended use rate of 1-4 gal/ac



Humalite AG
TECH GRADE COURSE GRANULE MESH SIZE #4 - #8

OMRI

Humalite AG 4 is a raw, course-grade humalite granule

- 64% humic acid; 3.04% fulvic acid (HPTA method)
- Cost effective product for broadcast applications where high rates are needed
- Blending capabilities limited to MAP, ammonium sulfate and KCL based fertilizers
- Recommended broadcast use rate of 89 lbs/ac



Liquid CARBON
TECH GRADE LIQUID

OMRI

Ready-to-use extracted liquid humic acid

- Contains 7.65% humic acid; 1.79% fulvic acid (HPTA method)
- Limited blending capabilities
- Ideal for starter fertilizers, top dressing, injection through irrigation water and foliar applications
- Recommended use rate 0.5 - 1.4 gal/ac (5-12 L/ha)

Humic acids in animal feeds can provide improved growth and a better feed conversion. This improves animal performance and reduces animal disease. These improvements are caused by the intestinal flora being stabilized and by improved nutrient uptake and better digestion. In addition, harmful heavy metals and toxins are bound. As a result, different animal yields (such as slaughter weight, egg production or milk values) can be improved and mortality due to several possible illnesses is reduced.



■ Intestinal health

Due to improved digestion and better processing of proteins a healthier intestinal flora is achieved, which results in improved bowel health and manure consistency. Humalite also causes the formation of a protected film on the intestinal epithelium, so that infections and toxins are less likely to penetrate the intestinal wall (Kuhnert et al., 1991). The development of a good intestinal structure (villi and crypts) is also promoted by Humalite. These factors reduce diarrhea. Humalite may also be suitable as an alternative for using ZnO against diarrhea (Trckova et al., 2015).

A secondary effect of the improvement of intestinal health is that animals have less stress (producing less stress hormone), which can reduce stress-related problems (such as tail and ear biting in pigs). This has been demonstrated in poultry, where chickens that received humic acids were able to cope better with stress initiated by full cages compared to the control (Cetin et al., 2011).

Humalite also has a pH-lowering effect in the gastrointestinal tract (Kamel et al., 2015), so gastric ulcers may also be reduced.