

slag Successes

News and Information about the Iron and Steel Slag Industry

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American agriculture gets growth spurt using EAF Slag as liming agent

HECKETT MULTISERV supplies EAF Slag to Tennessee Valley Resources, which supplies liming agents to much of the Southeast



America's farmlands enriched by steel slag.

It may be nearly a century since the first steel slag was used as a liming agent in the United States, but it's just two years that Heckett MultiServ has been supplying EAF (Electric Arc Furnace) slag to distributor Tennessee Valley Resources, Inc.

The Jefferson City, TN-based supplier of agricultural products reports many repeat customers.

"They're satisfied with EAF slag as a liming agent when it comes to adjusting the pH balance in the

soil," commented H.J. (Jay) Moser, III, head of the 25-year-old family-owned business.

Accessibility and the high cost of shipping some liming agents is another reason Tennessee Valley Resources is selling slag more frequently.

"As a major marketer of limestone in the Southeast it matters greatly to us about the quality of the product and that it does a good job. When used as a liming agent,

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slag better utilizes the fertilizer as all liming agents do,” Moser added.

“But we’re in a freight-sensitive business. Sometimes the cost to ship product is 2 or 3 times the cost of the product,” Moser explained.



Steel slag as a liming agent is traditionally used for corn and soybeans, and more recently with sugar cane and rice.

“If slag can help us service our customers in 13 or 14 states, avoiding the excess shipping costs, while providing the right chemistry to do an excellent job as a liming agent, we’ll continue supplying it.”

H.J. “Jay” Moser, III
Tennessee Valley Resources

In addition to steel slag’s value as a liming agent – reducing harmful acidic conditions by replacing the much needed calcium and magnesium – it is recognized for as many as fifteen other trace minerals, including iron, manganese, zinc and molybdenum.

EAF slag’s concentration of such fertilizer constituents as silicate, calcium, magnesium, iron and boron, is higher than that of natural stone.

“Using steel slag as an agricultural co-product requires the proper crushing, sizing and metallic recovery before it can be sold to Tennessee Valley Resources and others. The preferred size is 1/8x0 with a calcium carbonate equivalent of 95% or greater,” reported Gary



Finely ground steel slag in agriculture helps two ways: recycling industrial by-products and helping farmers produce better produce.

Gibbs of Heckett MultiServ, Chicago, Illinois.

Today steel slag is being used as a liming agent in not just farming, but parks, golf courses, nurseries, greenhouses, even land reclamation projects.

As uses of slag continue to grow, the Earth continues to benefit.

This is another Slag Success Story brought to you by the National Slag Association.