onBalance Strategies for Adjusting pH and Alkalinity

Chemical	pH	TA
Soda ash	strong shift (➔11.4)	1 lb / 100%
Sesqui	medium shift (➔10.2)	1.43 lbs / 70%
Bicarb	mild shift (➔8.3)	1.6 lbs / 63%
Muriatic acid	strong drop (➔1.1)	lowers
Powdered acid	strong drop (➔1.4)	lowers
CO_2	shifts pH (➔5ish)	no effect on TA
Aeration	shifts pH (➔8.3)	no effect on TA

pH	TA		Remedies
OK	Low	➔	bicarb
OK	High	➔	frequent small amounts of acid
Low	OK	➔	aerate, let drift up, hydroxide
High	OK	➔	aerate, let drift down, lite acid
Low	Low	➔	soda ash, sesqui, (bicarb…)
Low	High	➔	aerate, when pH OK, adjust TA
High	High	➔	adjust pH (acid demand), repeat
High (8.4+)	Low	➔	bicarb

Raising cyanuric acid or borax levels makes the pH tend to ride higher but also requires raising Total Alkalinity in terms of Saturation Chemistry