



PREVENT GRASS TETANY

Reducing the risk of Grass Tetany is important to any manager of beef or dairy cattle, as it can strike suddenly and often fatally, having a disastrous effect on herd productivity.

Grass Tetany is a nervous condition caused by low blood levels of magnesium (*hypomagnesaemia*) which is triggered when animals are under stress, and is most prevalent during lactation, wet or cold weather, handling and transportation or yarding.

LNT can help prevent this disorder from effecting your livelihood with a complete range of medicated supplements.

Grass Tetany Block

- ◆ High levels of magnesium oxide.
- ◆ At recommended intake rates, the Grass Tetany block provides enough magnesium to reduce the incidence of Grass Tetany
- ◆ High molasses content (75%) provides an energy source
- ◆ Optimum levels of molasses ensure the block is highly palatable
- ◆ Contains sodium chloride which counteracts the effects of potassium.

Benefits of feeding Blocks

- ◆ Labour saving. Blocks only need to be replaced every 1-2 weeks compared to feeding hay every second day.
- ◆ Weathering ability. These blocks do not need protection from rain.
- ◆ Introduce the blocks 1-2 weeks before needed to ensure acceptance by stock.
- ◆ Unique and patented production techniques guarantee quality and consistency.

Grass Tetany Block Analysis	
Magnesium Oxide	16.2 %
Molasses	75 %
Maximum Salt	2.5%

Grass Tetany Block Feeding Rates: 175 g/hd/day			
One 15kg block will last:			
Cattle		Sheep	
10 Head	8 Days	10 Head	30 Days
To prevent overcrowding one Grass Tetany Blocks should be fed out per 10 head of cattle or per 25 head of sheep.			

MORE ON GRASS TETANY

Causes of low blood magnesium levels

- ◆ Reduced feed intake eg. Overnight yarding
- ◆ Top dressing pasture with potassium and nitrogen reduces magnesium absorption.
- ◆ More common in grass dominant pastures.
- ◆ Calving stress.
- ◆ Cold, wet, windy weather.
- ◆ Loss through milk – high producers greatest risk.
- ◆ Scouring on lush green feed reduces amount of magnesium absorbed.

Symptoms

- ◆ Loss of appetite
- ◆ A wild eyed look, unusually alert, and a tendency to charge.
- ◆ Increased response to touch and sound.
- ◆ Staggers, tetanic spasms and convulsions.

Treatment - Acute

- ◆ Restore blood magnesium levels quickly by;
- ◆ Injection of calcium under the skin initially.
- ◆ Followed by an injection of magnesium sulphate under the skin.

PREVENTION

Supplementation

- ◆ Cattle require up to 60g/head of magnesium oxide daily.
- ◆ Magnesium oxide is unpalatable to cattle and has to be feed with molasses, grain or on hay.
- ◆ Magnesium supplements must be available daily or at least every second day.
- ◆ Protection ceases as soon as supplementation stops.
- ◆ Too much magnesium oxide causes scouring.

Cattle Management

- ◆ Time of calving. Spring calving cows less susceptible.
- ◆ Reduction of Stress
 - ◆ Avoid mustering and transport.
 - ◆ Avoid sudden changes of feed.
 - ◆ Keep hay for the cows and calves.
 - ◆ Avoid top dressing pasture with high potassium fertilisers.

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