

SALT BLOCKS

# FACT SHEET



This block provides a practical source of supplementary copper especially at times where handling cattle can be time consuming and difficult. Copper assists with red blood cell formation and helps coat condition. Use after Zn treatment.

## SUITABLE FOR

Beef, Dairy and Deer

## FEATURES & BENEFITS

- Convenient and suitable for use when extra copper supplementation is required
- Assists in preventing problems associated with copper deficiencies
- Trace minerals for animal health

## DOSE RATE

Copper Block 20kg

Cattle: 1 block per 20 stock units

Usual Intake: 15-40g/head/day - 25 days per block



## CONTENTS Active Elemental Loading

Salt	97%
Copper	3750 mg/kg
Iodine	94 mg/kg
Iron	90 mg/kg
Cobalt	65 mg/kg
Selenium	3 mg/kg

## WARNINGS

NOT SUITABLE FOR SHEEP

COPPER POISONING CAN BE A RISK WHERE MULTIPLE FORMS OF SUPPLEMENTATION ARE USED TOGETHER. IF IN DOUBT, CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN

## WHY SALT BLOCKS?

Animals have sought salt since the beginning of time, gathering at salt licks to satisfy their need for salt. Many New Zealand soils and pastures are naturally low in available sodium, and the use of certain fertilisers, such as Potash, may accelerate the leaching process.

Sodium deficiencies are manifested as abnormal licking or chewing of wood, soil and sweat of other animals and may be accompanied by a decline in growth rates and/or milk production.

Common Salt (sodium chloride) is an essential constituent of animal diet. Because many New Zealand pastures are deficient in sodium some form of supplementation is often necessary. For instance, lactating cows require 50g of sodium chloride at peak, dry cattle 10-15g and sheep a minimum of 2g. Sodium is routinely expelled from the body in milk, urine, faeces, sweat and saliva. Salt should be available to farm animals every day and because of this, salt is a convenient carrier of other minerals.

Salt may be one of the most cost effective methods of increasing production.

- Sodium in some form should be available at all times all year round
- Dairy cows' salt requirements significantly increase when lactating, as large amounts of sodium are excreted in milk
- Young animals in rapid growth need sodium for new tissue formation
- When sodium is deficient, appetite is suppressed
- Trials prove Summit® Salt Blocks last nearly 2 times as long as loose rock salt and require twice as much rainfall before broken down by the elements
- Compact 20kg Summit® Salt Blocks are easy to stack, handle and dispense

## ELEMENTS

New Zealand dairy cows grazing pasture are most susceptible to deficiencies of cobalt, copper, iodine, and selenium. Zinc supplementation is also important for immunity and hoof health. Trace mineral deficiencies may induce problems such as abortions, retained placentas, mastitis, and infertility. Other mineral specific problems include:

ELEMENT	ROLE	DIAGNOSIS OF DEFICIENCY
Copper (Cu)	Multiple roles including bone growth, pigmentation, and certain enzyme systems.	Lameness, illthrift, faded coat, poor conception rates.
Selenium (Se)	Important in the production of the antioxidant glutathione peroxidase, and in maintaining integrity of cell membranes.	Illthrift, diarrhoea, abortion, retained placenta, low milk production.
Cobalt (Co)	Essential for the production of Vitamin B12 by microbes in the rumen.	Illthrift, reduced milk production.
Iodine (I)	Essential for thyroid functioning, which influences growth.	Goitre, low milk production, low reproductive efficiency.
Zinc (Zn)	is important in over 30 enzyme systems, and is essential for good skin condition, immune response and lameness.	Reduces milk somatic cell counts and incidence of lameness.