

SALT BLOCKS

FACT SHEET



Is specifically designed for use at times of increased magnesium and sodium requirements, such as calving and lactation. Also available as a loose mix for feeding in troughs for sheep and cattle on breakfed crops.

SUITABLE FOR

Beef, Dairy, Horses and Sheep

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- Convenient and suitable for use when extra magnesium supplementation is required
- Assists in ruminant nutrition
- A high sodium/potassium ratio to assist stock absorb essential magnesium
- Trace minerals for animal health

DOSE RATE

Magnesium Block 20kg

Cattle: 1 block per 10 stock units

Sheep: 1 block per 50 sheep



CONTENTS Active Elemental Loading

Salt	85%
Magnesium	4810 mg/kg
Iodine	95 mg/kg
Cobalt	65 mg/kg
Selenium	3 mg/kg

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 need a daily minimum of 20gms of sodium chloride, dry cattle a minimum of 10gms and sheep a minimum of 2gms. Sodium is routinely expelled from the body in milk, urine, faeces, sweat and saliva. Sodium should be available to farm animals every day and because of this, 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 4 times longer than 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. Some more mineral specific problems are as follows:

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.	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.