

Issue 2 Monday 17th November 2003

Welcome to our second newsletter. In this issue we will focus on the advantages of using Bovatec and trace minerals in Quicklick.

Why do we add Bovatec to Quicklick products?

Bovatec is added to Quicklick to improve the rate of weight gain in cattle. Bovatec is a rumen modifier that increases weight gain by between 50 and 90 grams per head per day even on low quality feed. This equates to 8 to 14 cents per head per day in extra profit.

Bovatec works by altering the population of bacteria in the rumen. The rumen bacteria can be classified into two groups being either gram positive and gram-negative bacteria. The end products of rumen fermentation are Volatile fatty acids, which are the energy source for the beast. The mix of volatile fatty acids produced in the rumen determines how efficiently the energy from the feed is converted into available energy for the beast. Bovatec shifts the population of rumen bacteria in favour of the gram-positive bacteria. These bacteria produce a higher proportion of propionic acid, which is the most efficient type of volatile fatty acid in converting energy into a form available for the beast. Therefore more of the energy from the feed is converted into an available form.

An added advantage of using Bovatec is the control of coccidiosis. In weaners and other stressed animals, the naturally occurring population of coccidia in the small intestine can expand out of control. This causes scouring and in extreme cases death. Bovatec controls coccidia and therefore keep your animals in better health particularly through stressful times such as weaning and when the plane of nutrition is low.

During summer the benefits of feeding Bovatec can pay for your supplementation program in improved weight gains, more milk for calves, improved body condition of breeders, higher fertility and better health. This is without any advantage from improved mineral or protein nutrition. **Bovatec should not be used in home mixes as if not mixed properly it can be toxic.** Bovatec is in our production and Topline mixes.

What are the benefits of Chelated Trace Minerals?

The trace minerals that are added to Quicklick are specifically designed for maximum availability to the beast and are balanced for feeding in dunder. The chelation process ensures that the minerals do not become locked up by interactions with other minerals and are readily absorbed in the small intestine. Some elements are up to twelve times more readily absorbed than in other conventional forms. A deficiency in one mineral can hold back production as each element is needed in specific quantities. The element that is the most lacking is the element that will hold back production the most. Supplementation should begin while the pasture is still green enough to maximize absorption of trace elements.

Rob Sands (Nutritionist)

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