

SELENIUM DEFICIENCY

Selenium is an essential element (nutrient) involved in most metabolic processes in the body. It protects tissue membranes against damage arising from the end products of body metabolism (oxidative processes).

Selenium is required for the formation of the enzyme Gluthathione Peroxidase (GsPHx) which is attached to the red blood cell haemoglobin (Hb). This test is an excellent test and the amount of Selenium in the body is highly correlated with the activity of GsPHx.

Selenium deficiency causes muscular dystrophy or white muscle disease in ruminants rarely seen in this region. However subclinical deficiency depresses feed intake and utilisation causing varying degrees of ill-thrift, poor production and lower reproductive performance.

A large area of this district including all the area east of the Hume Highway to the coast continually over many years shows up on testing as being Selenium Deficient. The only way to access sheep and cattle status is by a blood test. Recent testing of deficient stock has again highlighted the expensive loss of productivity due to this essential element.

A RANGE OF PRODUCTS ARE AVAILABLE:

- A. The amount of Selenium in vaccines and drenches is low and limited.
- B. Selenium bullets have been a great treatment method and are very effective but are slow and labour intensive to administer.
- C. Selcote fertiliser applied every second or third year has worked very well but due to higher fertiliser costs and spreading costs the ability to apply to the whole property is an issue. As well this product has become harder to source due to some health concerns with handling the concentrated product. Where used it is cost effective.
- D. Depose Injection a new product released six years ago by Novartis. It works very well and enables you to treat cost effectively all animals sheep and cattle on your property.
The recommendations are:
 - a. Treat cattle yearly 1ml per 50kg bodyweight.
 - b. Treat sheep every second year at same dose rate.

SUGGESTED PROGRAM:

CATTLE

Heifers at pregnancy testing.
Cows at weaning or pregnancy testing.
Weaner calves at weaning unless sold as weaners.
Bulls yearly dose when other treatments given,

SHEEP

Off shears all retained sheep every second year.
Rams used to be included in this program.
Weaner lambs in the odd year need to be treated.

PURCHASES

Both sheep and cattle remember to implement the same program if these are introduced onto your property for any period longer than two to three months.

RESULTS OF AREAS TESTED (EXAMPLES):

Note: Normal GsPHx Level >40 Units.

- Burra Road: 22, 26, 21, 18.
- Gundaroo: 16, 9, 8, 15.
- Tarrabandra: 21, 19, 32.
- Rosehill Rd: 23, 21, 22, 31.
- Darbalara: 9, 9, 25.
- Coolac: 15, 23, 30, 11, 13, 22.
- Bethungra: 31, 27, 33.
- Tumorrana: 16, 22, 28, 8.
- Adjungbilly: 16, 12, 13, 6, 9.
- Adelong: 12, 15, 17

PLUS Response to Treatment:

- With Deposel - Jugiong: 244, 261, 285.
- With Selcote Fertiliser - Adjungbilly: 198, 175, 210.
- With Selenium Bullets - Adjungbilly: 240, 246, 263.

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What
REALLY
happens
at
THE VET'S

