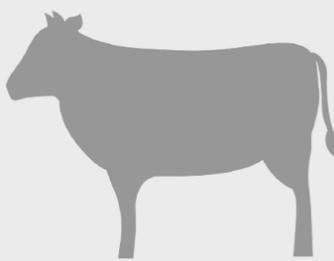


DEVELOPING A YEAR-ROUND



MINERAL PROGRAM

Developing a mineral program can be useful in knowing what minerals you need and how much to order. Here are a few steps you can walk through with your Countryside Feed representative to develop a program that is customized to your operation.

EVALUATE CATTLE NEEDS

What are your goals for your cattle? To achieve 2.5 lbs. average daily gain on growing cattle? For cows to calve and breed back quickly? Knowing your goals and the stages your cattle will go through in a year's time are important aspects when developing your mineral program. Catering to your cattle's production phases is a cost-effective way to provide your herd with the best opportunity for success.

KNOW FORAGE QUALITY

Knowing what your forages are providing for mineral nutrition is very important. Minerals are meant to "supplement", or fill in the gaps left by forages. Working with your Countryside Feed representative to test forages in order to know the nutrient levels will help you select supplemental feeds and minerals best suited to your operation.

PROVIDE QUALITY MINERALS

Looking at a mineral tag can be deceiving at times. High mineral values are not always an indication of the best mineral for your herd. There are many different forms of minerals that can be used when developing a cattle mineral: oxides, sulfates, chelated, organic, etc. Each of these mineral forms are available to the animal at differing rates. This means some forms of minerals require a higher concentration of trace minerals in order to provide a cow with adequate amounts. Oxides and sulfates are commonly used in minerals, but come with a higher price tag. Using a combination of these mineral forms is a great way to provide the needed minerals, while keeping costs in check.

SEASONAL CONSIDERATIONS & ADDITIVES

Changes in forages, stage of production, environmental conditions, and many other factors can make selecting minerals seasonally a great option. Some common seasonal mineral changes to discuss with your Countryside Feed representative include:

- High Mag mineral in the spring to help avoid grass tetany.
- Feed through larvicides, such as Altosid, as a means of fly control in the summer.
- Include Chlortetracycline (with a VFD) to prevent Anaplasmosis.
- Utilizing higher availability minerals such as Availa and Intellabond minerals during calving and breeding seasons.

MINERAL MANAGEMENT

Deciding on what minerals to feed is only half of mineral program, the other half comes once mineral is on farm. It is important to know how much mineral your cows should be eating and to target that feeding rate if the mineral is offered free choice. Mineral consumption can be calculated by the following equation: $\frac{\text{pounds of mineral offered}}{(\text{number of cows} \times \text{days to consume mineral})}$. If your cows are over or under consuming, it's time to reconsider your feeding strategy.