

LIVESTOCK

WINTER MINERALS

WHY?

Dried forages can be mineral deficient.

Poor mineral levels in the body can prevent absorption of nutrients.

Are your cattle in late-gestation/calving?
Minerals are super important during this time period.

Low levels of magnesium can make cattle susceptible to grass tetany in the spring.



MINERALS TO INCLUDE



Salt

At the bare minimal, salt should be provided to livestock.

Phosphorus, Magnesium, maybe Copper

Forages generally sufficient in calcium however they lack appropriate levels of phosphorus, magnesium, and potentially copper.



IDEALLY

Any supplemental forage or feedstuffs will be tested for nutrient quality. Custom mineral mix will be made based on the available feed stuffs.



FEEDING MINERALS

Loose

Easy to keep full. Cannot determine which cattle are consuming or how much. Prone to losses from wind, rain, pushing over feeder, etc.

Tub

Attractive to livestock because of molasses, benefit of potentially added protein/nutrients. Heavy and difficult to move/place away from rain. Empty tubs can become cumbersome to toss/store for other uses.

Block

Smaller sizes means you will need more of them to provide. Animals can bite off large chunks. Harder to place in pastures without experiencing elements (rain).

Total Mixed Ration

Ideally the best way to feed minerals is mixing into supplemental feed. Although many cattle owners do not have this ability or do not provide a feed ration.

CONSIDERATIONS

Adjust mineral mix to livestock needs, especially related to stage of growth, pregnancy/lactating, and available feed.

Different livestock species have different mineral needs, there is no "one size fits all".

Your decisions will be based on your animals, specifics of your operation, and your ability/willingness to do certain tasks.



THANK YOU

ALICIA HALBRITTER

904-259-3520

ALICIAH1221@UFL.EDU