



Prevention of Grass Tetany/Grass Staggers with Weather Shield Loose Lick Supplements



Grass tetany (cattle), grass staggers (sheep) and hypomagnesaemia are names given to a condition that can affect stock in late autumn, winter and spring. Clinical signs develop when serum magnesium levels fall below a critical level (hypomagnesaemia). This occurs when animals are running on pasture that has low available levels of magnesium or as a result of increased body demands for magnesium during lactation or late pregnancy.

Symptoms include: restlessness, irritability, aggressiveness, muscular twitching in the flank, wide-eyed staring, uncoordinated gait, convulsions and death.

Hypomagnesaemia occurs most frequently in the spring, often following cool, rainy weather when grass is growing rapidly, but also is seen in autumn and winter in animals grazing grass dominant pasture or lush cereal crops, often without any hay supplementation. Symptoms are often seen 5 to 10 days after the onset of cold, wet weather.

Treatment must be prompt to effective and an injection of a combined calcium and magnesium solution is the recommended approach. Prevention is preferable to treatment, however as hypomagnesaemia often occurs without warning and the success rate of treatment depends on how quickly it is administered after an affected animal has been identified. Basically, prevention involves supplementing the animals with magnesium during the period of greatest risk. One of the simplest ways of supplementing magnesium is using Propharma's Weather Shield Loose Lick Supplements.

Weather Shield Loose Lick Supplements are weatherproof and have been designed to be fed out in self draining troughs, making it ideal for open grazing situations. Primarily containing essential salt and other vital minerals (including magnesium) and vitamins, they replace the missing nutrients that are crucial to maintaining a healthy animal. The outcome of which is the animal will only take as much as they need according to its individual needs. This means that Weather Shield Loose Lick Supplements provide a very efficient and cost effective form of supplementation.



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