

Focus

Our Informative Quarterly Newsletter
Issue 26 **Autumn 2024**

Main Story:
Stop Rainfall
Impacting on
Micronutrients

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Stop Rainfall Impacting on Micronutrients

Extreme rainfall is steadily on the rise and is impacting on the availability of micronutrients to grazing animals.

The Met Office has reported via the UK Climate report that the UK has become 9% wetter over the last few decades. EPA Climate Ireland have also reported a 7% increase in rainfall in the thirty year period 1991–2020, compared to the previous.

For farming producers, aside from the infuriating impact on accessing fields for grazing and grassland management, increased rainfall will critically increase the prevalence of nutrient leaching from the soil.

Perhaps less obvious – but equally important – is the impact on micronutrient (mineral and trace element) availability to grazing animals. Any deficiencies can impair digestion, immunity, reproduction, growth and development.

'Soil splash' occurs when grazing animals literally splash grass with soil. When rainfall and soil splash is high, soil ingestion can increase significantly. While soil-splashed grass can increase intakes of minerals and trace elements from the soil, it can also increase the intake

of 'antagonists'. For example, if animals are ingesting molybdenum, iron, and/or sulphur from the soil and/or plant, then any ingested copper will become more 'bound up' and unavailable for absorption within the animal.

Here's some things you can do to combat the effects of rainfall on micronutrients:

- Manage paddocks to prevent poaching
- Introduce manure (rich in trace elements) back into the soil
- Incorporate clovers and certain broad-leaved plants and heathers
- Focus on feed efficiency to maximise utilisation of forage consumed
- Get soil pH right but take care not to over-lime
- Regularly test grazing paddocks for nutrient status
- Supplement when there is a risk of deficiency



**MEGASTART
SPECIAL OFFER!
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Effective supplementation can be defined as overcoming any deficiencies in every animal without an oversupply. When choosing between blocks, boluses, bagged minerals and blends, it is important to consider a number of critical factors.

The Factors to consider when choosing your mode of supplementation include:

- Nutrient composition
- Risk of undersupply or oversupply
- Typical length of supply
- Price point per animal per day
- Availability of research and data
- Practical suitability by system type

At Scotmin we offer a wide range of supplements to suit a variety of farm types and systems. Each product we manufacture incorporates the highest quality raw materials to ensure superior bioavailability.



**Scan the QR code
to Download our
Latest Brochure**



MEGASTART EWE & LAMB

Special Offer: £60 Discount



MEGASTART EWE & LAMB is available with £60 off per tonne. To qualify for this offer, orders must be placed between Monday 9th September and Friday 25th October 2024, with delivery being taken no later than 29th November 2024.

Megastart Ewe & Lamb is a free-choice feed lick designed to supplement ewes 4-6 weeks prior to lambing. With intakes between 100-150g per day Megastart Ewe & Lamb supplies high-energy, high-quality protein, Vitamin E and selenium. Research undertaken at Myerscough College confirms that Megastart Ewe & Lamb significantly improves colostrum quality.

The Scotmin team visited Huntington Farm earlier in the year to learn how the Runciman family incorporate Megastart Ewe & Lamb into their system

Scan the QR Code above to watch video.

MEGASTART EWE & LAMB

MEGASTART EWE & LAMB



Available in 20kg & 80kg



Dale's Diary

Another summer has come and gone but I'm not sure it was a good one. However, the year moves on and we once again approach that time of year when we consider winter feeding once more.

In the breeding sheep market tupping is obviously getting into full swing, with the hope for a good lamb crop once lambing approaches. I always have debates at this time as to whether to feed ewes or not. Personally, I generally find topping up with pre-tupping products keeps the animals healthy and therefore more likely to hold a good crop of lambs. Equally, I also believe that as we near lambing feeding Megastart will help ewe and lamb health and colostrum quality. Now is often a good time to book these products as there are usually offers

available and with such a volatile raw materials market it would be sensible to ensure pricing is as good as it can be.

Many of my customers are already inquiring about prices and making advance bookings after seeing the benefits of Megastart in previous years. Some have remarked on the tight tupping, leading to a condensed lambing period, and how seamlessly the lambing process went with "slippy lambs just popping out". This concept holds true for cattle as well, whether dairy or beef, with customers also noting excellent results when using Megastart Pre-Calver and Megastart Dry Cow products. Don't miss out.

Now there's something to think about.



Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society National BBQ

The Border Union Show is always a highlight of the year's events calendar. At this year's show it was our great pleasure to host the summer national barbecue for The Aberdeen-Angus Cattle Society. **Thanks to all of those who were in attendance and to all who have joined us over the summer show season.**



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