

Productivity Highlights

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Applying Selenium for animal production

Topdressing CSBP Selenium Chip in custom mixes with pasture fertilisers is a low cost and easy way to eliminate the risk of selenium deficiency in stock.

Selenium is vital for animal metabolism but is not essential for plant growth.

Selenium deficiency is more common in sheep than cattle and white muscle disease is the most common symptom. Other symptoms include poor growth rates, infertility, subclinical mastitis and reduced fleece weight.

Much of the primary grazing areas of WA are low in selenium and require selenium supplements for optimum stock production. In the past, this has been applied in the form of animal drenches or bullets, while in recent years, topdressing custom blends of selenium with pasture fertilisers has become more popular. Topdressing Selenium saves time and involves no animal handling. The selenium is taken up by the plant roots and is eaten by the grazing animal.

Note - Selenium bullets can not be given to young animals, however, they can access Selenium through grazing treated pastures.

Selenium Chip

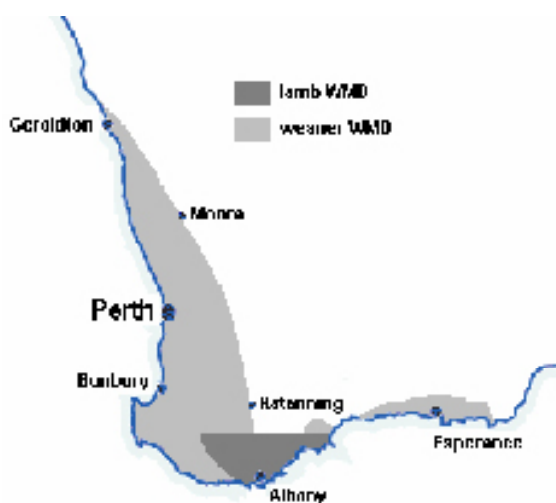
CSBP Selenium Chip is designed to be blended with pasture fertilisers. It contains 1% selenium as sodium selenate and is coated with a polymer to enhance the blending process.

In general, veterinary consultants recommend Selenium Chip on an annual basis at a rate of 300 g/ha to prevent selenium deficiency in livestock. Consultants may tailor such recommendations to individual farms.

Custom Mix Ready Reckoner

Pasture Fertiliser application rate (kg/ha)	Customer Mix percentage (%)	Selenium Chip application rate (kg/ha)	Custom Mix percentage (%)
100	99.70	0.3	0.30
120	99.75	0.3	0.25
140	99.79	0.3	0.21
160	99.81	0.3	0.19
180	99.83	0.3	0.17
200	99.85	0.3	0.15
220	99.86	0.3	0.14
240	99.87	0.3	0.13
260	99.88	0.3	0.12
280	99.89	0.3	0.11
300	99.90	0.3	0.10

Distribution of Selenium Deficiency in WA



Risk areas for selenium responsive white muscle disease (WMD)
Source: Western Australian Department of Agriculture Farmnote No. 2/88