



5 TIPS FOR MANAGING FREE CHOICE MINERAL INTAKE

KNOW THE SUGGESTED FEEDING RATE

Minerals are formulated to provide the nutrients your cattle need in a specified amount of product. The majority of our floor stocked minerals at CountrySide Feed are recommended to be fed at 4 oz per head per day. This breaks down to 200 feedings in a 50 pound bag.

KNOW HOW MUCH MINERAL YOUR CATTLE ARE EATING

They say you can't manage what you don't measure, this is 100% true when it comes to mineral consumption. Keeping a record of how much free choice mineral your cows are consuming in each pasture is the best way to know if you are on track. It's easy to calculate, you just need 3 key pieces of information: 1. The amount of mineral delivered to the pasture. 2. How long it takes for the cows to consume the mineral. 3. How many cattle are in the pasture. Then plug the information into this formula : $Mineral\ consumption = (mineral\ delivered) / (days\ to\ consume * number\ of\ cattle)$ If the mineral consumption does not match the suggested feeding rate, it's time to consider different mineral management practices.

CONSIDER FEEDER PLACEMENT

The location of the feeder can make a huge difference in the amount of mineral your cattle will consume and is a great place to start if your herd is over or under consuming. To limit intake, place feeders away from water sources, shade, loafing areas and heavily traveled areas. To encourage intake, move the feeder closer to the areas listed above.

TYPE OF FEEDER

The type of feeder used can also impact mineral consumption, typically a mineral feeder that is placed on the ground will result in higher intake than one that is 1 - 2 feet off the ground.

CUTTING WITH SALT

Don't provide salt separately from the mineral, if the mineral intake needs to be controlled with salt, include additional salt with the mineral, but keep in mind you are diluting everything in your mineral, including additives when you do this - this may affect how your additives, such as fly control, perform.