

# GRASS TETANY ALERT!

A combination of various environmental factors this season tend to be aligning and can possibly create the perfect storm for Grass Tetany (hypomagnesemia) in cattle over the next few months. These predisposing factors include:

## High K and low Mg in young pasture

Following a dry spell, like the one experienced from late summer until early autumn this year, lush re-establishing pasture is commonly high in potassium (K) and low in magnesium (Mg). Low dietary Mg alone can lead to a deficiency large enough to cause Grass Tetany. However, high K levels can intensify the risk by interfering with Mg absorption sites in the rumen.

## Cold, wet and windy conditions

Cold and wet conditions can significantly slow pasture growth and reduce dry matter intake, only for pasture to be flush with K when growth recommences on warmer days. Similar conditions, generally experienced from late autumn through to early spring in south eastern Australia, with the inclusion of wind can add stress to the equation, commonly associated with Grass Tetany. In fact, the NSW DPI (2009) reported that the first widespread cases of Grass Tetany in a season are often seen after the first spell of cold, wet windy weather or frosts.

## Lactating, older and fatter cows are a high risk

Cows with calves at foot have a higher drain on Mg and minerals than other classes of cattle due to mineral requirements for milk production. At the same time, older and better conditioned cows have a lower ability to mobilise Mg around the body when required. Therefore, under the right environmental conditions, lactation can cause a deficit in Mg absorption versus Mg expenditure quickly leading to deficiency.

## Impact on other classes of livestock

Although uncommon, Mg deficiency can still be fatal for other classes of livestock. In these livestock Mg deficiency is largely associated with a reduction in production. This generally goes unnoticed, however, studies have shown that in both cattle and sheep grazing green pastures and crops, effective mineral supplementation has resulted in increased liveweight gain of up to 60% (Dove H, et al 2011).

## Prevention

The loss of a cow and calf to Grass Tetany can cost producers more than \$2,000 per unit, so it is important to mitigate the risk where appropriate. Considering the cost of mortality, the most effective way to control the disease is generally the most economical. A swag of evidence suggests that the most effective control for Grass Tetany is prevention through proactively offering a highly available, effective Mg supplement.

**DON'T RISK GRASS TETANY THIS SEASON. ACT NOW!**



# StockGro-HiMag

## High Magnesium Green Feed Supplement for Cattle

**StockGro-HiMag** is an antibiotic free, molasses based liquid feed supplement specifically designed to boost the essential mineral, vitamin and trace element status in cattle at times when they are less available and in high demand.

**StockGro-HiMag** can assist in the control and prevention of metabolic diseases associated with mineral, vitamin and trace element deficiencies like Grass Tetany (Hypomagnesemia). Correcting mineral, vitamin and trace element deficiencies can also boost productivity.

**Reduce the risks and maximise the potential of your operation with StockGro-HiMag.**  
**Call AusFarm Nutrition now!**



# StockMins-BoviMag

## High Magnesium Green Feed Supplement for Cattle

**StockMins-BoviMag** is an antibiotic free, weatherproof, granular loose-lick supplement specifically designed to boost the essential mineral, vitamin and trace element status in cattle at times when they are less available and in high demand.

**StockMins-BoviMag** can assist in the control and prevention of metabolic diseases associated with mineral, vitamin and trace element deficiencies including but not limited to Grass Tetany (Hypomagnesemia) and Milk Fever (Hypocalcaemia)

**Reduce the risks and maximise the potential of your operation with StockMins-BoviMag.**  
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