

Grass Tetany Risk Self Reckoner

Grass tetany is a complex disease mainly seen in older lactating cattle; however, the disease can affect all classes of livestock under a combination of predisposing conditions. Grass tetany occurs due to low levels of magnesium in the cerebrospinal fluid and is usually accompanied with hypocalcemia that inhibits muscle function ultimately leading to death. Furthermore, sub-clinical disease impacts energy metabolism causing reductions in liveweight gain and milk yield.

Preventing grass tetany is best practice as the first symptom usually seen is dead livestock with the hall mark sign of paddling. Prevention strategies should be aimed at:

1. Allowing animals access to continuous supplies of adequate levels of magnesium.
2. Maximising the absorption of magnesium in the gastrointestinal tract by delivering available sources of magnesium.
3. Identify agronomic practices that can interfere with absorption or normal magnesium metabolism (Nitrogen (N) and Potassium (K) application, species of plant being grazed).
4. Minimising husbandry practices that induce stress such as mustering, yarding and transport.

The ability to identify predisposing conditions allows you to predict an approximation of the risk of grass tetany in each paddock. Using this information, you are better able to implement suitable prevention measures such as supplementation, moving high risk stock (lactating/older animals) onto lower risk pastures or delaying turn out to pasture until pasture has matured.

At ANP, we specialise in understanding and controlling grass tetany and have created a prediction model to help identify high-risk paddocks. Using this information, you can make an informed decision on your preventative management strategy.

Complete the form below to the best of your ability. The answers will be numerically added up to give a factorial assessment of the vulnerability of your cattle to grass tetany on your farm. Refer your results to the recommendation table and assess your options.

Each question must have an answer. If you are not sure, use a best guess. If you have any difficulty, whatsoever, don't hesitate to give us a call us.

Please answer the question by circling the box that most suits your situation.

Farm History:

<i>History of Grass Tetany on your Farm?</i>	None	Rarely	Some	High
	0	5	10	15 20

Grazing:

<i>Predominant Pasture Species?</i>	Natives	Legume	Perennial	Annual
	2	2	4	6 8
<i>Cereal Crop Grazing?</i>	None			Free Access
	0	4	6	8 10

Weather Conditions:

<i>Climate?</i>	Warm Temperate		Cool Temperate		
	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Cattle Subject to Cold Stress?</i>	None	Some	High	Wind	Chill
	0	3	6	8	10

Supplementation:

<i>Do you offer any feed grain supplement?</i>	Yes				No
	0	1	2	3	4
<i>Do You Feed a Mg Supplement?</i>	Yes				No
	0	1	2	3	4
<i>Do you feed straw/hay?</i>	Yes				No
	0	1	2	3	4

Fertiliser Use:

<i>Super Application per Hectare (Kg)?</i>	None	50	100	150	200+
<i>(or equivalent annually)</i>	0	2	4	6	8
<i>Urea/Amm Sul Application per Ha (Kg)?</i>	None	30	60	90	120+
<i>(or equivalent annually)</i>	0	2	4	6	8
<i>Potash Application per Ha (Kg)?</i>	None	15	25	50	100+
	0	2	4	6	8

Stress:

<i>Cattle Subject to Stress (e.g. movement)?</i>	None	Some	Extreme
	0	2 4	6 8

Cattle:

Stage of Lactation?	Dry	Late	Mid	Early	
	2	4	6	8	10
Breed of Cattle?	Other	Her	S/H	Ang	MG
	1	3	5	7	9
Age of Cattle (years)?	Heifers	3	5	7	9+
	1	2	4	6	7
Body Condition Score?	1	2	3	4	5
	1	1	3	6	7
TOTAL					

Results Interpretation:

Results	Risk assessments	Recommendations at critical times
>10 – 40	Little risk	No need to supplement or use blocks
>41 – 60	Mild risk	Free access to a quality granular supplement high in magnesium*
>61 – 90	High risk	Free access to liquid high magnesium supplement [#]
>91 – 130	Extreme risk	Extended free access to liquid high magnesium supplement [#] . It is not recommended to put high risk livestock on these pastures.

ANP Product Recommendations:

* *StockMins – BoviMag or BoviMag Plus*

StockGro – HiMag

If you are concerned about the results or would like more information regarding our products, please give one of the team members at ANP a call for an obligation free discussion.

Jon Meggison

Phone number: 0412 048 055

Email: jon@ausfarmnutrition.com

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