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Guide to M8U + R

M8U+R is a product designed to maintain body weight of cattle in the dry season when cattle traditionally 'loose condition'. It is designed to be fed <u>open access</u> in troughs with the 8% urea content inhibiting excessive intake and providing a viable economic source of equivalent crude protein for cattle. Although potentially toxic, urea in small quantities enables cattle to utilize dry pastures that would normally be of little nutritional value to cattle in the dry season.

M8U+R is not designed for supplementation of starving stock or for situations where very little grass exists. In these situations over consumption is likely, resulting in toxic levels of urea being consumed, which may lead to livestock deaths.

Cattle should eat approximately 1 to 2 kg per head per day of M8U+R to receive the full nutritional benefit of the product and this is normal, under most conditions. Cattle consuming in excess of 2 ½ kg per head per day will not only be at risk of urea poisoning but are also consuming an uneconomic amount of product (over 50c/HD/day).

M8U+R also contains *Rumensin* which is toxic to horses and some domestic animals. Rumensin is a rumen modifier that increases the efficiency of the digestive process in cattle and helps convert poor quality pastures into a more useable feed source.

The molasses content of M8U+R provides cattle with a valuable source of energy which is essential but often very low in dry season pastures. M8U+R is widely used in North Australian beef herds as a viable nutritional supplement for cattle and is considered to be a <u>safe</u> product when managed correctly.

8 Simple Rules For M8U+R (Molasses + 8% Urea + Rumensin)

- 1. **Do Not** feed to horses, pigs, goats or domestic animals.
- 2. **Do Not** feed to starving stock. Unlimited access to ample dry pastures is required.
- 3. **Do Not** feed to cattle which have had access to <u>straight molasses/molasses production</u> mixes/or similar products as cattle will over consume M8U+R.
- 4. If feeding M8U+R for the first time, apply a layer of approximately 12mm of salt on top of the product.
- 5. Position M8U+R troughs at least 100m away from water points and/or any other source of feed/water.
- 6. Once feeding M8U+R, avoid 'breaks' in feeding, as cattle may try to gorge the product when reintroduced to it. If in doubt apply approximately 12mm of salt on top to the M8U+R.

- 7. Provide adequate troughing to avoid 'bullying' at the troughs. *Guide:* 350L to 450L troughs Max 50hd/trough; 500L to 750L troughs Max 80hd/trough. Bullying can lead to some cattle over consuming and others missing out. This is common (particularly with dairy cows) when different groups of cattle are boxed together or not enough troughing is available. If in doubt, apply a layer of approximately 12mm of salt on top of the M8U+R.
- 8. Should rain/showers be received during the dry season cattle can go off in search of 'green pick' and not consume M8U+R for several days (particularly in large paddocks). Over consumption resulting in deaths can occur when these cattle return to the troughs, hungry for lick. If in doubt apply a layer of approximately 12mm of salt on top of the M8U+R.

Note: M8U+R is rainfast if mixed properly and water laying on top of the product should not be a problem.