

Urea Feeding Tips

Urea is a very valuable product for feeding to ruminants. As a protein source it is approximately five times cheaper than cottonseed meal. However if not properly used urea can be toxic, so it is very important to follow these guidelines for its use.

1. Never feed supplements with high urea levels to starving stock. Once ruminants are starved the number of microbes in the rumen becomes very low and they cannot utilise the ammonia produced from the urea. The level of ammonia in the blood may rise high enough to cause sickness or death. If stock are starving feed out legume hay, cottonseed meal or **Prosup 5** for 3 days to rebuild the number of microbes in the rumen.
2. Start on a low level of urea. eg. For sheep use **Optigro 7** and cattle may be started on **Drimol 10** with care.
3. Ensure that there are enough feeding points so that all stock are able to access the supplement.
4. The toxicity of urea reduces as the rumen becomes adapted. In the initial days of urea supplementation, stock may get urea poisoning if they consume 450mg of urea per kg of live weight in a short period (1 or 2 hours). After 14 days of continuous supplementation, this level rises to around 1000mg of urea per kg of live weight. If supplementation ceases for any reason, this adaptation is lost after only 3 days.
5. When using dry feed mixes, eg **Prosup 10**, it is a good practice to place a **Drimol 10** block near the dry lick trough. This ensures that if the **Prosup 10** trough runs out, stock will still have access to a urea supplement.
6. Never feed more than 15% urea blocks to sheep.



Nutrition Tip:

To get cows in calf every year, your breeders will need to be cycling within 80 days of calving. This will require careful nutrition management.

Questions



If you have any further questions about our products, please call our **Customer Service on 1800 072 520**. We can then direct your enquiry to our nutritionist, your local representative or your local distributor.



For your nearest distributor or free nutrition advice, call... **1800 072 520**