

When to Feed Dry Cow Minerals

Most dry cows are fed silage as their main source of feed during the dry period. While good quality silage is an acceptable source of protein and energy, it a poor source of trace elements. Silage will provide less than 20% of the daily requirements for the critical six elements (**copper, zinc, selenium, iodine, manganese and cobalt**). At the same time silage contains high levels of mineral antagonists. These are elements that interfere with the absorption and metabolism of minerals and trace elements. Examples of importance to the dry cow are potassium, sulphur, iron and molybdenum. As a result, correct supplementation is vital in a successful dry period for the cow.

Dry cow minerals should be fed for at least 6 weeks prior to calving. With shortening dry periods this will mean starting to feed minerals as soon as the cows are dry. Vitamins and trace elements play a key role in supporting the cow's immune system and supporting the recovery process of mammary tissue and growth of the calf before birth.

What's important to feed

Magnesium is the most important constituent of a pre-calver mineral. Along with many other metabolic processes, it is critical in the mobilisation of calcium at calving time. Magnesium levels in silage have fallen significantly over the past ten to fifteen years. Silage mineral analysis reports has shown this decline plus a significant increase in potassium in silage has also been observed over this same period. This has an adverse effect on magnesium absorption in the rumen.

At recommended feeding rates, the Drinagh High Spec Pre-Calver supplies the cows with **30g/day of magnesium**. This Increases dietary intake of magnesium and along with the background magnesium supplied from forage, water, etc.. will be more than adequate to meet their nutritional needs.

Sodium is also an important constituent in a pre-calver mineral. It improves palatability, supporting a more consistent feed intake across the herd. It also helps absorption of magnesium in the rumen.

Vitamins A and E play an important role in the immune system. In addition, a significant portion of the cow's reserves of these vitamins is put into colostrum.

Vitamin D is involved in calcium metabolism. This is critical at calving time as the cow experiences a large increase in the demand for calcium. Poor calcium metabolism is associated with milk fever, retained cleanings, slow calvings and a range of other diseases associated with hypocalcaemia (milk fever).

How to Feed Dry Cow Minerals

There are a range of methods of feeding mineral prior to calving. However, the feeding of a powdered mineral spread on silage or added to feed is by far the best and most accurate method of supplementing cows before calving. The mineral should be spread evenly over silage and works better if fed twice daily. *Drinagh High Spec Pre-Calver minerals can also be incorporated into a concentrate nut, supplying the cow with a full allocation of trace elements and vitamins in a complete supplementary feed.* Please consult with Drinagh Agri Advisors or Sales Representatives for more information.



Drinagh

**SPECIAL
OFFERS FOR
WINTER
2020/2021**

**DRINAGH HIGH
SPEC PRE-CALVER
MINERALS**

Feeding a high-quality pre calver mineral during the dry period is a crucial part in planning for the year ahead. It is one of the most cost-effective measures to carry out in order to get cows on track for a productive, healthy and fertile lactation. Drinagh Co-op High Spec Pre-Calver contains an excellent health package with a formulation containing elevated levels of Vitamin E and 24% magnesium, boosting immunity and health. This with a balance of the essential minerals, vitamins and trace elements ensures all the requirements are met for the cow and the new born calf.

Element mg/kg mineral	Drinagh High Spec Pre-Calver
Vitamins	
Vit A iu	500,000
Vit D3 iu	120,000
Vit E iu	8250
Trace Elements	
Copper mg	2000
Chelated cu mg	1500
Manganese mg	3000
Cobalt mg	100
Iodine mg	500
Zinc mg	3000
Zinc chelate mg	1500
Selenium mg	25
Selenium yeast mg	25
Magnesium %	24%
Sodium %	8 to 10
Phos %	3
Calcium %	minimum
Feed rate grams/cow/day	125

How Much is Required with 125g Feed Rate/Cow/Day?

No. of cows	Requirement for 60 days (minimum of 6 weeks before calving)	How much do I need to feed the herd per day? (125g/cow/day)	One 20kg bag should last
50	375kg (19 bags)	6.25kg	3.2 days
75	562.5kg (28 bags)	9.375kg	2.1 days
100	750kg (38 bags)	12.5kg	1.6 days

