

Animax Bolus Range

Tracesure-I™

Copasure™

Tracesure-Cu/I™

Trace element bolus proven to boost milk yields in dairy herds

Top-selling trace element bolus, Tracesure-I™, which has been proven to improve cow health post-calving, has now been shown to increase milk yield too.

An independent study by a leading vet confirms that the bolus increases milk yield by an average of 327kg.

Based on current milk prices this adds up to an extra £90 worth of milk per cow from a bolus procedure costing less than £8.

UK Vet John Cook, an expert in cattle medicine and production who led the study in four commercial herds in Cumbria, says the results are very exciting.

“It is the first time that anyone has used a bolus to determine the impact on milk production,” he says.

“It is difficult to be entirely specific

about the exact reasons for the lift in production because these boluses contain iodine, selenium and cobalt; it could be any one of these or a combination producing this result.

“But what I would say is that the bolus improves cow health post calving and it naturally follows that a healthier cow will produce more milk.”

Mr Cook, who is Technical Services Director with Genus ABS, proved the bolus was responsible for the uplift in yield by focusing on the five month period immediately after it had been administered.

He noticed that in the first 100 days of lactation there was a variation in milk yield between the treated and untreated groups of cows.

“After 100 days of lactation the effects were declining because

these cows had been given the bolus five months previously,” Mr Cook explains.

“After correcting these data to allow for factors such as the age of the cow and the length of dry period I found a significant ($P \leq 0.02$) difference of 225kg milk yield per cow between the treated and control animals. Over the whole lactation there was an advantage of 327kg for the treated animals.”

Animax Ltd, which is based in Bury St Edmunds, has 24 years’ experience in producing slow-rumen release trace element products.

Aled Davies, Animax’s sales and marketing representative in Wales and the South of England, says farmers had long recognised the benefits to herd health from administering these boluses but they could now be confident of the strong economic benefits too.

“The simple conclusion is that direct economic advantages were shown from a straightforward procedure which points the way towards practical improvement in herd health and production,” says Mr Davies.

Mr Cook’s paper on the link between the Tracesure™ range and the reduced retention of foetal membranes in dairy herds has been published in the Veterinary Record. His paper setting out the results of the milk yield study is in preparation.



Aled Davies says farmers can be confident of the strong economic benefits of using Tracesure-Cu/I™ boluses.

ANIMAX
veterinary technology

Farmers abandon conventional minerals for trace element boluses

Livestock farmers who have traditionally supplemented their herds' diets with conventional minerals are switching to a bolus which delivers the necessary levels of essential trace elements – and nothing else.

Animax's Tracesure-Cu/1™ guarantees a slow release of iodine, selenium, cobalt and copper for up to nine months, giving farmers the reassurance that grazing animals are getting precisely what they need, minus unnecessary elements which reduce the effectiveness of these essentials.

Tracesure-Cu/1™ contains exceptionally high doses of iodine at levels recommended by the Teagasc Grange research centre in Ireland. It was in this country that Animax originally developed the Tracesure™ range because Ireland has conducted more research into iodine levels in livestock than anywhere else in the world.

Les Porter, who established Animax two decades ago, says his boluses only include trace elements that stock need. "Conventional supplements contain materials that there is absolutely no point in giving to animals," he says. "A prime example is phosphorus. Grass won't grow without phosphorus so we know that stock are getting enough in their diets. And iron, which is frequently given in mineral formulations, doesn't become deficient in cattle

other than in the extreme situation of calves reared on milk. The overall effect therefore is to reduce absorption of key trace elements."

For years many farmers have relied on minerals to get the essential micro-nutrients into their animals but Mr Porter suggests that it is a highly variable method, especially in situations of free access where the intakes vary hugely.

As commodity prices have climbed steeply, to around £30 per cow for a basic mineral during the dry period, farmers are recognising that they can get all of their selenium, iodine, copper and cobalt needs from Tracesure™ boluses.

The Animax approach is to focus

on the elements which are often low, and which will cause problems if not corrected.

The four production limiters are selenium, iodine, copper and cobalt; if any of these are low in the animal, production will be limited, says vet Les Porter.

"We provide these by bolus, so that each animal gets enough," he says. "Supplementary needs of cattle vary from herd to herd, it is down to individual farmers to consider how the trace element needs of their cattle are best served.

"To maintain efficient production, farmers should consider how the focused Tracesure™ bolus approach might best fit the needs of their herd."



A Tracesure™ bolus delivers the right levels of essential trace elements – and nothing else.

There are many components that go into conventional mineral supplements but are they necessary?

Phosphorus: grass won't grow without phosphorus so why add more? Phosphorus deficiency is only found in near desert range conditions and is therefore not a problem in the UK.

Calcium: normal forage has sufficient calcium levels. Milk fever is not caused by calcium deficiency and is not prevented by feeding minerals. Hypocalcaemia can only be minimized by well known special procedures at calving.

Magnesium: there are adequate levels of magnesium in good forage, although it can be lower in old-fashioned store wintering where straw and turnips are the primary feed sources. Staggers, or hypomagnesaemia, is not the result of magnesium deficiency.

As with milk fever it is caused by low blood levels on the day, and prevention by conventional mineral feeding is not the answer.

Iron: iron deficiency anaemia is caused deliberately in milk-fed calves, to give pale meat and is otherwise not a problem. Iron oxides are very common components of mineral mixtures, to give an attractive red or yellow appearance. However, excess iron seriously reduces absorption of trace elements which are really needed - especially copper.

Zinc and Manganese: these are important elements, involved in many enzyme systems. However, in domestic cattle, actual deficiency problems don't seem to happen.

Tracesure™ boosts cow and calf health

A family farming partnership which runs one of the largest registered herds of Welsh Blacks in Wales says the health of the stock has improved dramatically since deficiencies of trace elements in the herd were resolved.

Rhun and Rhidian Jones, who run the Eirog pedigree herd with their father, Gwynfor, say inadequate levels of copper, iodine, selenium and cobalt had resulted in prolonged calvings and poor performance.

Five years ago they began dosing the herd with Tracesure™ boluses that slowly release these trace elements over six months. Since then fertility has improved, there are less retained afterbirths and the calves are born stronger.

“We have been giving the cows two boluses of Tracesure-Cu/I™ two months before calving and it really has made a difference,” says Rhun, of Llwyniorwerth Uchaf, Capel Bangor, near Aberystwyth. “We found

the stock weren't getting enough trace elements from bought-in concentrates, grass and silage but now that they do, we have a much better success rate for getting the cows back in calf. We have noticed that calves born to cows that have been bolused

are on their feet straight away, are very lively and suckle immediately.”

The ruminating calves are bolused with the Tracesure™ Triplepack. “It gets their muscles growing and it also helps them to build up a good immunity,” says Rhidian.



Rhun Jones says Tracesure™ has improved the success rate of getting cows back into calf.

Tracesure™ improves fertility in top dairy herd

A dairy farmer who produced a Welsh Dairy Event champion has seen herd fertility improve by around 15% since he increased intake levels of trace elements.

Geraint Thomas says fertility wasn't a major problem in his herd of pedigree Holsteins and Ayrshires but he was keen to improve the conception rate.

Copper levels on his farm at Llangenech, near Llanelli, are low and this affected the intake levels of trace elements essential to the health of his stock.

Two years ago he started dosing the milking cows with a Tracesure™ bolus at drying off and bolusing the heifers at pre-calving.

“We have seen the health of the herd improve overall and we have far fewer problems getting the cows and heifers into calf than we did previous-

ly,” says Mr Thomas. “Their coats are shiny and they are a lot cleaner at first service.”

It has now become part of his routine at drying off. “We dose for fluke and worms and give them the trace element bolus at the same time. We wanted something simple and it works,” he says.

Mr Thomas runs the Gwynnog herd of Holsteins, established by his father, Rhys, in 1982. Seven years ago he introduced Ayrshires into the herd.

“I have always liked the Ayrshire and its size suited us well because our parlour is geared up for Holsteins,” says Mr Thomas, of Tyreglwys, Llangenech. “We have Holsteins to push for milk and the Ayrshires for milk quality.”

Average yield in the Holsteins is 9,100 litres with 4% fat and 3.1% protein while the Ayrshires have a herd

average of 8,000 litres with 4.64% fat and 3.47% protein.

Improved fertility means that he is culling fewer of his older cows which leaves him with more heifers to sell as replacements to generate another source of income.



Geraint Thomas has seen herd health improve overall since using Tracesure™.

A guide to improving herd health with Tracesure-Cu/I™ and Copasure™

My spring calving herd is already getting Tracesure-Cu/I™ pre-service. Should I be giving the herd something before they calve?

- ▶ Tracesure-Cu/I™ has been proven to reduce retained foetal membranes by up to 70% when given at drying off. The calves are stronger and eager to suckle. New research has also shown that milk yield is improved significantly.
- ▶ You can still give Tracesure-Cu/I™ pre-service, raising blood levels to aid conception.

How do I ensure good blood levels of essential elements at both calving and service?

- ▶ Bolus with Tracesure-I™ at drying off.
- ▶ At one month pre-service, Tracesure-I™ may be sufficient, unless copper is a problem.

I know our farm has a copper problem. What is the most effective way of supplementing my cows with copper?

- ▶ Copper oxide needles are the best way of delivering copper. Both Tracesure-Cu/I™ and Copasure™ utilise this technology.
- ▶ Use Tracesure-Cu/I™ at drying off, or at housing and turnout.

I can buy copper needles products with added selenium and cobalt powder. Would this be a better option for me than using Tracesure-Cu/I™ and Copasure™?

- ▶ It would be nowhere near as effective. Whilst the copper would last as long as the Copasure™, the selenium and cobalt levels last weeks and not months. Tracesure-Cu/I™ delivers selenium, cobalt and the all important iodine for up to six months, as well as copper for up to 9 months.

Which bolus would you suggest I give my cows when they are over-wintered on kale?

- ▶ Tracesure-Cu/I™. It is important to ensure proper supplementation of iodine, as well as cobalt, selenium and copper.

I have a herd of large Holstein cows. Will one bolus of Tracesure-Cu/I™ be enough?

- ▶ Any cow over 550Kg will require greater levels of supplementation – two Tracesure-Cu/I™ for each cow is recommended.

If I want more information who should I contact?

- ▶ Sales manager, all areas, Graham Dalton **07789 486266**.
- ▶ Scotland, Simon Mellor, **07790 372828**.
- ▶ Wales and South of England, Aled Davies, **07789 716884**.