

# Tracesure® Bolus Range

Tracesure® Sheep/Lamb Tracesure® Se/I Tracesure® Co Copinox®

## Bolus achieves remarkable results in upland sheep flock

A sheep producer who had been losing income from his fat lamb enterprise because the animals were slow to finish says a trace element bolus has been key to reversing the problem.

Richard Isaac, who farms in a severely disadvantaged area in the Welsh Valleys, had been dosing the lambs up to five times because they weren't growing properly. He wrongly believed that worms were a problem when in fact it was a trace element deficiency.

"Dosing was effective to a point but we were having to drench every three to four weeks and it was getting very expensive," says Mr Isaac, of Mynachdu Farm, Ynysybwl, Pontypridd. "And we were losing money because we just couldn't finish the lambs. We

found ourselves selling many of them as stores."

His son, Mathew, considered closely the health of the flock, and recognised that the supply of selenium, cobalt, iodine and copper was inadequate. The farmland is on coal measures and is short of these trace elements.

Two years ago the Isaacs began dosing three-month-old lambs with 9g Tracesure Sheep and 2g Copinox, slow-release boluses manufactured by Animax Ltd. The results, they say, have been remarkable. Following on from which, around mid pregnancy, the ewes and replacement lambs were also given 9g Tracesure Se/I, 9g Tracesure Co and 4g Copinox, supplementing selenium, iodine, cobalt and copper. The objective being

to supplement both ewe and unborn lamb pre lambing, and further supplementation for the suckling lambs via the milk until weaning. "There really has been a general improvement in the health and condition of the whole flock. The lambs have been growing as they should be," says Richard Isaac. The pedigree Texel ewes received all the above apart for the copper products.

He says he is saving money on drench and minerals too. "We now only drench the lambs once and we don't use half the volume of minerals that we used to. The flock is getting everything it needs."

The Isaacs run a flock of a thousand ewes – a mixture of Welsh Ewes, mules, Texel-crosses and pure Texels – on a 140ha holding. They also rent a further 120 acres 10 miles away from Ynysybwl which is used for growing silage and cereals and for grazing sheep too.

The flock lambs in March and the lambs are sold from July to January. Two-thirds of the lambs are sold to Waitrose and the remainder through livestock markets or to St Merryn Meat.

All the ewes, except the Welsh Ewes, are housed up to eight weeks before lambing and are fed according to scan results. The ewes carrying single lambs get a diet of silage and



Tracesure® boluses have provided Richard Isaac's flock with enough iodine to overcome production problems associated with grazing on swedes.

**ANIMAX**  
veterinary technology

wholecrop and those carrying twins are fed silage and a mixture of oats and soya. “The singles used to get concentrates too but since we have used the bolus we don’t give them any,” says Richard Isaac, county NFU chairman for Glamorgan.

The flock grazes on hybrid ryegrasses undersown with red clover, which is grown in rotation with wholecrops of oats, wheat or barley and with swedes and turnips. Aled Davies, sales and marketing representative for Animax in Wales and the South of England, says the boluses have certainly proven their worth on this system.

“The goitrogens found in swedes, turnips, ryegrass and red clover inhibit the proper utilization of iodine by the thyroid gland,” says Mr Davies. “This can lead to a lack of production at best and at worst to stillborn lambs. We know that the boluses can provide enough iodine to overcome this scenario”.

Mr Isaac’s lambs fatten well on the hybrids and clover. “I have never seen lambs do as well as they do on a red

clover ley,” he says.

He also runs a herd of 35 pedigree Welsh Blacks. He chose the breed because he wanted an animal that didn’t need to be housed.

He established the herd with in-calf heifers from the Jones family, who run one of Wales’ largest pedigree Welsh Black herds, the Eirog herd, at Llwyniorwerth Uchaf, Capel Bangor.

As part of the sales package, the Jones’ bolused the heifers with Tracesure Cu/I immediately before they were loaded for transport.

It was after seeing the effect it had on the heifers that he started using it on his sheep and lambs.

“It is unbelievable the effect it has on the lambs, they are all on their feet within 20 minutes of being born.”



Richard Isaac says he has achieved remarkable results from bolusing his flock.

## Bolus your ewes to protect your lambs

Bolusing ewes mid-pregnancy is beneficial to both the ewe and her lamb.

Tracesure boluses slowly release trace elements over six months which means that if a ewe is bolused three months before lambing, these supplements are passed on to the lamb through its mother’s blood.

After the lamb is born the health benefits continue for a further three months when the lamb is suckling its mother’s milk.

Aled Davies, sales and marketing representative for Animax in Wales and the South of England, says there is no bad time to bolus ewes but bolusing ewes mid-pregnancy can be one of the most cost effective ways of benefitting the ewe and lamb.

But farmers also administer them at other times to produce specific results.

A farmer who wants to improve lambing percentage will bolus ewes

a month pre-tupping. “The bolus lasts until lambing and the lambs are born with good levels of the elements supplied by the boluses,” says Aled Davies.

This system is generally used on lowland flocks where lambs are sold off the ewe. Lambs which stay in the flock after weaning, for finishing or for flock replacement, are bolused at weaning.

On hill and moor farms, where farmers want to improve the condition of ewes post-weaning for drafting or for returning the ewes to the

hill or moor, will bolus ewes one month pre lambing. Because the boluses last for six months, the lambs will receive trace elements from a dam’s milk until weaning, with the ewe also benefiting while dry.

In areas of extreme deficiency, farmers will combine this system with a pre-tupping dose – bolusing the ewes two months pre-tupping and again one month pre-lambing for 12 months cover. The result is that lambs are born with good levels of the elements contained in the boluses and gain more from the milk until weaning.

Lambs must be ruminating before they can be bolused. Smaller lambs can receive a bolus once they are cudding. Farmers bolus lambs they need to finish, that they plan to keep as replacements, store lambs purchased for finishing and breeding lambs bought in as replacements.

**Mr Isaac doses his ewes with Tracesure® Se/I and Tracesure® Co and 4g of Copinox and his lambs are dosed with Tracesure® Sheep and 2g of Copinox.**

# Overcome iodine deficiencies in grazing sheep by bolusing with Tracesure®

Farmers who graze their flocks on brassica crops are turning to Tracesure boluses to increase iodine intakes.

Brassicas are often associated with poor iodine availability because they generate goitrogenic substances such as thiocyanate.

This problem can result from feeding cabbage, swedes, kale, rape, turnips and clover and also in feed such as ryegrass in its first grazing season, soya, sugarbeet and many other plants too.

“Low iodine levels are generally regarded as being most likely where rainfall is heavy,” says Animax’s sales manager, Graham Dalton. “High calcium intakes also reduces iodine absorption.”

Animax’s **tracesure<sup>®</sup> Se/I** and **tracesure<sup>®</sup> Co** slowly release



**Bolusing for slow release iodine, selenium and cobalt means sheep and lambs grazing brassica crops get precisely what they need.**

iodine, selenium and cobalt for up to six months, giving farmers the reassurance that grazing animals are get-

ting precisely what they need, minus unnecessary elements which reduce the effectiveness of these essentials.

## Lambs are born stronger from ewes dosed with slow-release Tracesure® boluses

Increasing selenium levels in ewes through slow-release trace element boluses improves not only their health status but that of their lambs too, according to one Welsh family farming partnership.

Rhun and Rhidian Jones, and their

father, Gwynfor, run a flock of 1700 sheep, mainly South Wales Welsh Mountains, at Llwyniorwerth Uchaf, Capel Bangor, near Aberystwyth.

They bolus their ewes with three boluses at pre-tupping and at pre-lambing.

“The lambs are on their feet and

suckling immediately and we rarely get any infections. We put it down to the selenium in the bolus and the better quality colostrum,” says Rhidian.

“If the ewe is getting enough trace elements she will have better colostrum and this will be passed onto the lamb to make its immune systems stronger.”

The lambs are sold as fat lambs from July onwards, mainly to Park Mecca Meats in Birmingham.











The Jones’ get the same results with their Welsh Black calves as they do with their lambs. “Young calves and lambs pick up far fewer infections, in fact these have been virtually nil since we started bolusing,” says Rhun.

“We used to lose the odd lamb through the summer but now the lamb gets a bolus in May or June of copper, selenium and cobalt and as a result our mortality rate is virtually zero.”











**Health boost: slowly releasing trace elements in ewes benefits lambs in the womb and through the mother’s milk.**

# The Tracesure® range of boluses for sheep and lambs

Tracesure® boluses <i>without</i> iodine		
Contents	Ewes	Lambs
Selenium Cobalt	 2 x tracesure sheep/lamb Selenium & Cobalt 	 1 x tracesure sheep/lamb Selenium & Cobalt 
Selenium Cobalt Copper	   2 x tracesure sheep/lamb 1 x 4g Copinox Selenium & Cobalt plus Copper 4g	   1 x tracesure sheep/lamb 1 x 2g Copinox Selenium & Cobalt plus Copper 2g

All products are sold in tubs of 100 or 250

Tracesure® boluses <i>with</i> iodine		
Contents	Ewes	Lambs
Selenium Iodine Cobalt	 1 x tracesure Se/I 1 x tracesure Co Selenium, Iodine & Cobalt 	
Selenium Iodine Cobalt Copper	   1 x tracesure Se/I 1 x tracesure Co 1 x 4g Copinox Selenium, Iodine & Cobalt plus Copper 4g	   1 x tracesure Se/I 1 x tracesure Co 1 x 2g Copinox Selenium, Iodine & Cobalt plus Copper 2g

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