

Animax Bolus Range

Tracesure-Se/I™

Copinox™

Tracesure-Co™

Farmers bolus ewes after cattle reap health benefits

Animax boluses have helped tighten the calving pattern in a Scottish suckler herd.

The Vevers family started using the boluses after an iodine deficiency led to an abnormal number of stillbirths in their herd of 145 suckler cows.

Post mortems revealed a shortage of iodine. “We worked with the vets to see what could be done and they came up with the idea of bolusing for iodine and selenium,” says Mr Vevers, who farms 700 acres near Waterbeck in south-west Scotland.

It is now twelve months since they first used the Tracesure Cu/I boluses and there have been no abortions linked to an iodine deficiency in the Aberdeen Angus, Limousin-cross and Simmental-cross herd.

Their cows are coming to the bull much quicker too. “In the past, calving



The Animax boluses have boosted lamb thriftiness in the Vevers' flock.

had been lasting too long because of stragglers but this is no longer the case,” says Mr Vevers who runs the herd with his son, Lindsey.

“I can see that it is going to make a big difference to profitability.”

After seeing such good results in

their cattle, they started using the boluses on their flock of 850 sheep. They used boluses containing selenium, cobalt, iodine and copper.

Lindsey says the difference they made was more than he could have hoped for. One of the biggest improvements has been thriftiness in the lambs.

The ewes are bolused in January, midway through pregnancy, which mean the unborn lambs have the benefit of the bolus via the milk.

“The lambs get up to suckle much faster,” says Lindsey. “When there are sets of twins the first-born is up on its feet before we have delivered the second. It is so good to see. Lambing has been so much more enjoyable this year.”



John and Lindsey Vevers believe the Animax boluses make a big difference to profitability in their beef herd.

ANIMAX
veterinary technology

Feed cost savings thanks to Tracesure™

Selby Robson's suckler cows no longer get minerals because he is confident that all their trace element needs are being satisfied by Animax boluses.

Mr Robson started using Tracesure boluses after blood tests revealed his cows were lacking copper and selenium.

"We used injections for a while but the bolus is so much easier to administer," says Mr Robson, who farms near Otterburn.

"Another plus was that we had been getting a lot of calves that were awfully slow to get up and suck but they are now far brighter and sharper because they are getting the benefit of the bolus from their mothers."

The bolus has helped him make cost savings on feed. "The cows don't get concentrates, just silage. The bolus seems to keep them in good condition to see them through the winter and to get them back in calf. We don't give minerals either because they are



Selby Robson says his cattle are far fitter when they go out to grass, thanks to the Animax boluses.

getting everything they need through the bolus."

His sheep also get the bolus. "We could see a difference not long after we started using the bolus. Their coats and faces had brightened and they

were far livelier. Their lambs are also stronger and a lot quicker to get up and suck."

Mr Robson is a big fan of the boluses. "I don't think we would dare stop using them."

£5 per head payback on bolused ewes

A sheep flock run on land deficient in selenium has recorded enhanced growth and fertility rates since receiving a bolus supplement.

Samuel Wharry was unaware he had a selenium deficiency at Glencloy, a hill farm in Carnlough on the Antrim coast until he signed

up to a research programme run by the Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland.

Some of the flock was given a selenium supplement while the remainder was untreated.

"I didn't know which ewes had been treated because they were unmarked but at the end of the year I was coming out £5 a head better off on the ewes treated with the selenium product," says Mr Wharry.

"It was down to a combination of factors. We had less barren ewes, less mortality among the lambs and slightly better lamb growth rates."

Mr Wharry has since used the Tracesure range of boluses on the ewes two weeks before tupping, and his lambs are bolused at weaning. "We give the bolus at the same time as we vaccinate for pasturella and we seem to get a better uptake of the vaccine," he says.



Samuel Wharry boluses his ewes two weeks before tupping.



Ewe fertility rockets after bolus counters iodine deficiency



David Rock's lamb losses have virtually disappeared since using Tracesure.

A massive rise in the number of ewes aborting their lambs on a Scottish hill farm due to trace element deficiencies has been reversed after the flock was supplemented with Animax boluses.

David and Alison Rock farm 1100 acres in Stirlingshire with their son, James. Much of the ground is north facing and doesn't get any sunshine for three months of the year.

They knew their soil was short in cobalt so they drenched the lambs but what they didn't realise was how deficient the land was in iodine, selenium and copper too.

It came to a head seven years ago when they noticed a steady rise in the number of ewes casting their lambs. They run a flock of 720 breeding ewes with 300 ewes kept pure to the Scottish Black-Faced tup and just over 400 crossed with a Blue-Faced Leicester.

"We were getting more sheep than usual slipping their lambs between scanning and lambing times and over a three year period this went from five to 50, an average of 70 lambs," says David.

"It was very painful at lambing time to see all those ewes having a year out doing nothing. We had to do something about it."

As an accredited flock, the aborted matter was tested but none of the main abortion diseases were prevalent in the flock.

The Rocks eventually narrowed it down to an iodine deficiency and began supplementing the ewes with

Tracesure Se/I boluses along with Tracesure Co and 4g Copinox. This gave them up to 6 months cover for selenium, cobalt, iodine and copper. All the ewes were given the bolus at tugging time.

The following year only two ewes slipped their lambs between scanning and lambing. "It has been a huge relief. We have been using the bolus for four years and the most losses we have had is five lambs. It has made a huge difference," says David.

The Rocks bolus the ewes around November 10th, a week before tugging.

"The boluses are easy to administer. All three go into the gun and down the throat in one go," says David.

To reduce the number of times the sheep have to be handled, he boluses them at the same time as he drenches for fluke and treats for sheep scab.

The Rocks say the boluses have more than paid for themselves. "With 50 ewes casting their lambs the price of the bolus more than covers the loss of the lambs by a long way," says David.



The ewes are bolused a week before tugging.



Boluses double rate of twin lambs

The rate of twins produced by a flock of 300 ewes has doubled since the sheep were bolused to counter copper and other trace element deficiencies.

Caroline Hunter runs 700 Black-faced breeding ewes in four groups at High Carrick Farm on the military range near Otterburn.

One of the hefts is run on land which is poorer than the farmland where the remainder of the flock grazes. Caroline knew that there were problems with this land when she had a high percentage of barren ewes in that heft.

Caroline tried using different tups but when there was still no improvement she was advised to use Animax boluses. "We knew we had to do something and narrowed it down to a trace element deficiency in the soil," she says.

The ewes were bolused twice a year, at pre-tupping and again in March. "Once we started with the bolus we gradually saw the number of barren ewes go down," says Caroline.

She is delighted with the results. "We have had a tremendous scan from the heft on that land this year. We usually get between 40 and 50 sets of twins from that group of



Caroline Hunter says the rate of multiple births has increased twofold since bolusing.

300 but this year we had over 100 which is great. It's the result we wanted to see."

The overall health of the flock has improved too. "The ewes are in a fitter condition when they come in and before, during and after lambing. We have seen a big improvement in them," says Caroline.

Although only two of the four hefts are bolused she is considering supplementing all the flock. "We haven't had any problems with two of the hefts but given the improvements we have seen we think maybe we

should put them on the boluses too," she says.

Caroline also started using Trace-sure Cu/I on her herd of 80 spring-calving cows when the usually tight calving pattern slipped. "We have been very pleased with the fertility since using the boluses," she says.

"They only get a bolus once a year but we are considering giving it to them every six months because this year we have had a few late calvers. We think bolusing twice a year will help tighten up the calving even further."



Fertility in Caroline Hunter's herd of spring calving cows has improved since using Tracesure.

For more information contact:

Sales manager, all areas:

Graham Dalton
07789 486266

Scotland:

Simon Mellor
07790 372828

Wales & South of England:

Aled Rhys Davies
07789 716884

Central England:

Maldwyn Davies
07721 892752

www.animax-vet.com