

Strategic & effective supplementation of sheep

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Research Purpose

- To go beyond energy and protein supplementation – focussing on trace mineral, vitamin and functional nutritional additives to best support immune function, digestion and sheep health.
- Sheep systems utilising animals of high genetic merit have increased requirements for minerals and vitamins to support and optimise this increased performance.
- How do we practically provide nutritionally effective supplements in a cost-effective way?

Key Learnings

- Be Effective:
- Conduct soil & seasonal pasture tests, in combination with blood & liver samples to determine if feed supply meets livestock requirements at key times.
 - Understand the ‘pay-out’ period for the supplement, is it short-acting or long-acting? Does it match the class of livestock you want to supplement or balance pastures?
- Be Strategic:
- Prepare short-, medium- and long-term nutrition plans to support reproductive performance and lamb health.
 - Do your research to find supplements that are ‘Fit for Purpose’ and meet sheep requirements at the right time.

Travel



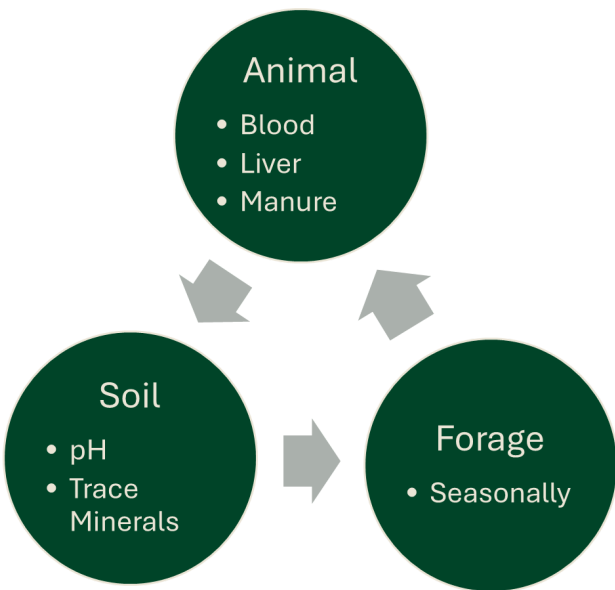
Case Studies

- Supplement businesses in France support farmers through providing feedback and recommendations on a range of analyses (blood, water, forage, urine, milk) to identify which supplements match best. For some farmers supplements are customised to suit.
- Many supplements also utilise functional nutrition additives such as specific plant compounds to support sheep health. many have natural anti-microbial properties.
- Rumen boluses containing a range of minerals, vitamins and functional nutrition additives were common in southern France.



Recommendations for Industry

- Focus on trace mineral & vitamin supplementation for ewes and rams pre-joining, for ewes pre-lambing and early lactation and young lambs prior to and during weaning.
- Consider saltbush in marginal country as a complementary natural source of antioxidants for lambing ewes; or integrate herbs such as plantain or chicory into your pasture phase it that better fits your country and cropping plans.
- Review soil, plant and animal test results for a three-prong nutrition strategy.
- Prepare your ‘PLAN’ to ensure Productive Livestock through Animal Nutrition.



Thank you to my sponsor



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