

FEEED FOR THOUGHT

News For Cattlemen From Suga-Lik® A Product Of U.S. Sugar Corp.

Each Season Requires a Fully-Fortified® Nutrition Program

Chet Fields, Ph.D., PAS and Pat Whidden, PAS

The nutrient requirements of the cow vary with her size and genetics, her stage of reproduction, level of milk production, target body condition score, environment, and her degree of internal and external parasite burden.



Similarly, numerous factors influence the nutritive value of the forages grazed. Our “fully fortified” concept is to, first, identify when the cow is obtaining less than nutritionally optimal levels of each essential nutrient. Then, to provide appropriate levels of supplemental nutrients in an economical, convenient, labor efficient, and environmentally friendly manner. We recognize this is easier said than done!

Fortunately, the National Academy of Sciences, which is composed of distinguished scientists from throughout North America, regularly evaluate and summarize research on the nutrient requirements of beef cattle (and other species). Their findings are published and updated in the publication *Nutrient Requirements of Beef Cattle*. Professional beef cattle nutritionists respect the validity of these data and use it to properly nurture beef cattle.

The toughest (and most expensive) part of designing an appropriate nutrition program is to determine the nutrient content of the forages consumed. To achieve this goal, we’ve collaborated with many of our customers and IFAS and developed an extensive and detailed database on the nutrient composition of Florida forages. This database contains over a thousand samples of Bahia grass taken over

every month of the year for several years. We have also established nutrient composition databases for Hemathria, Stargrass, Bermuda grass, and a few other forages. All of these forage databases are updated periodically.

Thus the foundations upon which our Suga-Lik® Fully-Fortified® supplements are built are based upon the National Academy of Science recommendations and our exclusive Florida forage databases. We designed and formulated various Suga-Lik® Fully-Fortified® nutritional supplements: fine tuned for winter, spring, summer or fall, and for any stage of the reproductive cycle.

Your cattle require year ‘round nutrient supplementation. Traditionally, many cattlemen use molasses-based supplements for winter and granulated salt-mineral products in summer. Consider U.S. Sugar’s new approach. Try Suga-Lik® Fully-Fortified® Grass Mate Vitamin-Mineral Supplement this summer. This can be fed free choice and consumption is designed to be only one pound per day. If you’re already feeding a liquid supplement, no special or additional equipment is needed. Because our products are Fully-Fortified® you don’t have the hassle or expense of handling bagged salt or mineral. Similarly you don’t have the expense associated with dry mineral feeders (that get destroyed), labor (and sore backs), bag disposal, and broken bag shrink that accompanies dry mineral supplements (and rusted-out truck beds).

Every Suga-Lik® Fully-Fortified® supplement provides sugars that are proven to enhance fiber digestion. The source of that sugar is our own U.S. Sugar Corporation blackstrap molasses. We know its composition and where it originated. This is the epitome of source verification, a key component of feed and food safety.

Give us or your nearest Suga-Lik® dealer a call. We’ll recommend the appropriate product for your cows, ANYTIME!

Better Approach to a Proven Practice

Charlie Hofer, PAS and Terry Weaver

**“A
cattleman’s
work
is never
done.”**

What a true statement. During the winter, there is always hay to put out, lick tanks to top off, and calves to tend to. Spring time involves working calves and worrying about how to make that grass stretch into the rainy season. Finally the summer comes. Now you are fighting to stay ahead of your grass you fertilized; praying it won't rain on the hay you just laid down to dry; and trying not to let your mineral boxes go empty for too long.

That last chore is what we would like to focus on. It seems there are always more important things to do than put out mineral. We understand that, but we all realize that it has to be done. After all, cows need their essential nutrients. Using Suga-Lik® Grass Mate Vitamin and Mineral Supplement may be the best answer to this problem.

Since we all know putting out mineral is a necessary evil, why not put out more? “Well”, you might say, “the more I put out, the more likely it'll get rained on and ruin.” This can be solved using our new product, Suga-Lik® Grass Mate Vitamin/Mineral Supplement in lick wheel feeders. Not only can you put out more at a time, but you can also alleviate the potential for hogs, deer and other critters from eating the product. The bottom line: less time and effort in providing essential minerals and vitamins to your herd.

Some folks resist change. It is simply human nature. Using a liquid-based vitamin-mineral supplement in the spring and summer may seem like a big change. But when you consider the benefits of that change, it tends to take that pain away. Your time and money are valuable. This is why Suga-Lik® Grass Mate Vitamin and

Mineral Supplement was developed. Saving you time and money, while effectively providing essential nutrients to your cattle is the basis of this program.

Another common problem is rainfall. We all know pastures can get wet this time of year. Getting summer supplement delivered to the herd can be a problem. But with careful consideration and management, you can work through this without too much effort. Consider your pasture layouts and position your lick-wheel feeders where they can be best accessed by your delivery system. Also, consider moving your feeders on a regular basis, so mud holes do not accumulate. This should be no different than how you would manage your typical range mineral feeders.

Our goal is two-fold. First and foremost, we aim to provide Florida beef herds with proper nutrition to meet at least 100% of their nutritional needs, year-round. Our second goal is aimed at you, the producer. We know our future is based on your success. We aim to help make you more profitable, through nutritional supplements that are economical, performance-based, and labor efficient.



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