

## Minerals – Getting the balance right

The need to feed minerals and vitamins to livestock to perform at optimal levels has been established for many years.

Too frequently on farm minerals are overfed, underfed or fed an inappropriate mineral.

Where minerals are overfed with a 'more is better' approach this is often wasteful and expensive.

Additionally we are seeing a steady increase in copper toxicity where excessive copper has been fed via compounds, supplements and drenches or a combination of all three.

Underfeeding or feeding the incorrect mineral can lead to livestock underperforming.

At New Breed UK we strongly believe it is crucial to ration the correct mineral intake to meet the specific needs of the livestock being fed.

SAMPLE TYPE	Grass Silage		FARMER	Mean of 137 samples		
SAMPLE REF	2018		FIELD ID	01/01/18 - 10/10/18		
DISTRIBUTOR	New Breed UK Ltd		POST CODE			
DISTRIBUTOR			DATE	3 October 2018		
Dry Matter 32.0%						
MINERAL ELEMENT (DM BASIS)	ASSAY	VERY LOW	LOW	MEAN	HIGH	VERY HIGH
Manganese Mn mg/kg	124	50	75	100	125	200
Copper Cu mg/kg	7.5	5	8	10	12	15
Zinc Zn mg/kg	29.4	25	40	60	80	130
Cobalt Co mg/kg	0.24	0.1	0.2	0.25	0.3	0.4
Iodine I mg/kg	0.42	0.25	0.5	1	1.5	2
Selenium Se mg/kg	0.18	0.05	0.1	0.15	0.2	0.25
Boron B mg/kg	6.4	1	2	4	6	10
Iron Fe mg/kg	373	50	100	150	200	350
Aluminium Al mg/kg	157	25	50	100	150	300
Molybdenum Mo mg/kg	1.77	0.1	0.35	0.8	1.25	2
Lead Pb mg/kg	0.78	1	2	2.5	3	10
Relative Copper Antagonism						
Soil Contamination Index						

The table above shows the average trace element levels from 137 grass silage samples analysed in 2018 in an area covering NW England and SW Scotland.

The key observations from these results are

- Copper & Zinc levels are routinely lower than optimum
- Heavy metals including Iron & Molybdenum are significantly higher than optimum

- The high level of Iron & Molybdenum act as antagonists to copper availability

Whilst averages are fine for giving a picture of trends that are occurring on farm or in a region it is your individual farm situation that is most important for us to consider.

Therefore, as a starting point to establish the correct mineral supplementation for individual farms we can offer you a full forage mineral analysis free of charge.

Based on the results of the analysis along with mineral and trace element contribution from all additional sources including bought in feeds, drenches and injections we run a mineral diet check to establish where mineral and trace element shortfalls or excesses are present.

We can also cross reference the results with a milk mineral analysis to give a total picture of what is going on. This will help us give you an accurate and cost effective recommendation that meets the needs of your cows.

Please contact the New Breed team to request your forage mineral analysis and/or mineral milk analysis.

Andrew Galling

In cattle, deficiencies of copper and zinc have been linked to lameness issues including:

- Soft feet
- Cracks
- Sole haemorrhages
- Abscesses
- Thrush
- Laminitis



As a qualified mobility scorer I understand the importance of assessing and monitoring the locomotion of a herd. Working alongside the nutritional team we now offer mobility scoring, cow signals and nutrition formulation for improving cow mobility and consequently overall herd health. Take advantage of our free service today!

Contact Susie on 07860 852763 or  
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## NEWSLETTER

### November 2018



Welcome to our November newsletter, the autumn has been very kind to us in the North West with forage stocks looking significantly healthier than they did this summer. Cattle have had an extended grazing period and sheep are in good condition going to the Tup.

It is with sadness that we will be saying goodbye to our colleague Janet who leaves at the end of November. Janet is one of the original founder members and has been key in setting up our office infrastructure and all the back office systems that we take for granted. She has kept us all on point with invoicing and pricing and developed the skill of telepathy when dealing with Mark and myself.



She is taking early retirement so that she and her partner Steve can travel the world exploring new places, and I know you will all wish her a long and happy retirement.

She is being replaced by Sarah who we were lucky enough to find a month ago. I am sure you will make her feel welcome to the New Breed family.

**Richard Rolfe**

### **Sarah Strachan**

My name is Sarah Strachan and I'm thrilled to become the newest member of the New Breed UK team. As Janet is retiring in November (lucky lady!), I've been brought into the business to shadow her and ultimately become the new Business Co-Ordinator. Over the years I have amassed an extensive knowledge of administration processes which I intend to put to good use in my new role at New Breed.



Originally hailing from West Yorkshire I moved over the border in 2001, met my now husband and settled in Morecambe where we live with our baby boy Eli, Millie the loopy Lab and Scamp the cat. In my spare time I love spending time with my family in the great outdoors, I also have my own business producing abstract artwork ([www.abstractimagination.com](http://www.abstractimagination.com)) which keeps me busy; I recently completed a commission for the Sellafield Nuclear Power Plant which goes on show in November.

### **Sam Blease**

I'm excited to join the New Breed UK team as a technical sales advisor, I've recently completed a degree in Agriculture with Dairy Herd Management at Reaseheath College. This is a fantastic opportunity for me to remain in the industry and build on my experience from working on farm. I am willing to take on board new ideas in order to improve efficiency and performance for my customers.



I'm a farmers son from South Cumbria, we run a commercial herd of suckler cows and a flock of sheep. Alongside farming, cattle foot trimming is a large part of the family business. I've set up my own small herd of pedigree Holsteins, rearing and selling freshly calved; as well as a flock of pure Texel sheep, selling tups to commercial flocks.

Please feel free to get in touch with me on 07867 972472.

### **2018 Silage Competition**

After the success of last year's silage competition we are excited to announce its return!

Applications are now open! The three categories are Clamp Grass Silage, Whole-Crop Silage and Maize Silage. Similar to last year the competition will be judged in two stages; initially by chemical analysis, from which a shortlist will be drawn for on-farm assessment. The on-farm assessment will be conducted by an independent judge, considering clamp management and the efficiency of forage use to select a winner.



Come visit us on the Micron stand at AgriScot on 21st November or contact your NBUK representative to enter, the deadline for all entries is Friday 21st December. The winner of each category and prizes will be announced in the New Year. Good luck!

Susie Foster

### **Increased Mycotoxin risk with high dry matter silages**

Following the exceptionally dry late spring and early summer many 1st cut grass silages in NW England and SW Scotland are typically much higher in dry matter >32% and pH >4.4 than recent years.

With higher dry matter and higher pH silages there is an increased risk of moulds and mycotoxins with the silage being less stable. Conserved forages with a pH of 4 or less are considered fairly stable and tend not to encourage the growth of mycotoxin producing moulds.

Mycotoxins are chemical compounds produced by moulds and fungi, either in the standing crop or in stored feeds and forages. The presence of toxins can be difficult to detect as they cannot be seen and the silage making process often kills off the mould that produces them.

Typical signs of a mycotoxin challenge on farm are numerous and include:

- Reduced feed intakes
- Lower milk yields & depressed butterfat %
- Swollen hocks & udders (oedema)
- Poor cycling & conception rates
- Mucus tags in manure
- Rough coats & listless activity

Good clamp management is essential to reduce the risk of spoilage on the clamp face particularly with high dry matter silages. Wherever practical aim to move across the clamp face in no more than 2 to 3 days, keeping it as clean as possible by using shear grabs or block cutters.

New Breed offer a range of mycotoxin binders where the mycotoxin risk is high and the signs outlined above are evident.

All mycotoxin binders available from New Breed are broad spectrum in the range of mycotoxins they bind, additionally they are fast acting and scientifically proven.

If you suspect mycotoxins are affecting the performance of your stock please contact the New Breed team to discuss how we can help.

Andrew Galling