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Supplementing Sheep Grazing Saltbush with Molafos

Saltbush generally provides sheep with sufficient nutrition for maintenance, however supplementation is required if growth and production are your goals. Molafos fed as a free lick or poured over hay or straw can help balance diet and improve production.

Converting Crude Protein to Achieve Production Goals

Saltbush contains high crude protein (greater than 20%), but a large portion of this may be present as soluble non-protein nitrogen (NPN). To convert this crude protein into weight gain and wool production an energy source is required, preferably a soluble carbohydrate such as grain or molasses.

Significant improvements in production have been demonstrated in sheep when they have access to a supplementary feed with low salt content to balance the high salt levels present in saltbush.

The Molafos Solution

Free Lick

Molafos is available as a consumption controlled, high energy, low protein, low salt free lick, containing essential minerals and flavomycin. This assists balancing diet, and aiding weight gain, fibre digestion and production.

Partial Mixed Ration

Molafos can also be poured over hay or straw, improving palatability and digestion, while also providing a complimentary feed source containing low levels of protein and salt to balance the diet. Providing an alternative feed source can also reduce the incidence of oxalate poisoning, especially when stock are first introduced to a saltbush diet.

How to Apply Molafos

For free lick, tubs or troughs containing Molafos should be located close to water sources initially, then moved further away as stock acceptance increases.

For partial mixed ration, pour Molafos over the cut end of the bale, then leave for 24-48 hours to allow for penetration. Penetration can be assisted by using the hay forks to probe the bale, which allows the Molafos to run into the holes created. The rate of Molafos per bale will depend on individual circumstances, however 20-60kg per large bale should provide a sufficient dose.

Diluting Molafos with water at a 2:1 ratio will also reduce the time required for penetration into the bale. The volume of water used needs to be considered, as increasing the moisture content can reduce the time to hay spoilage.

The addition of Molafos to hay choppers/mixing wagons is an effective way to coat the hay or straw evenly.

For Further Information

Please contact your local Molafos distributor or call GrainCorp Liquid Feeds on 1800 333 010.