

# agriculture & rural development

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# **NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**LICKS SUPPLEMENTATION IN BEEF CATTLE**

**PRODUCTION**

**DATE : 12 MARCH 2024**

**VENUE: MAREETSANE**

**MR S LEPHALE**



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# INTRODUCTION

- ❖ **What is Lick Supplementation**
- **Provision of those nutrients that are deficient in the grazing provided to livestock.**
- ❖ **Over the years, this has become a customary practice among Southern Africa farmers.**
- ❖ **This practice became popular after research performed over the years revealed that SA soils are poor in certain nutrients.**



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# INTRO CONT . . .

- ❖ **Two major nutrients that are a naturally deficient in SA soils are:**
  - ❑ **Salt (NaCl) Salt availability has a direct impact on the feed intake and grazing behaviour of livestock.**
  - ❑ **Phosphorus (P) Phosphorus is not only important for skeletal development and the maintenance.**
  - ❑ **A deficiency in phosphorus has been associated with poor conception rates, sub optimal overall growth performance and decreased feed efficiencies.**



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# Phosphate supplementation

- ❑ **Phosphate supplementation in livestock is important in maintaining optimal production and reproduction in your cattle.**
- ❑ **Phosphate deficiency results in:**
  - **Decreased feed intake**
  - **Suppressed appetite**
  - **Decreased in milk production after cow has calved**
  - **Decreased reproduction of the herd**
  - **Less weaner calves will be produced**



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# Main objectives of Lick Supplementation

- To allow livestock access to nutrients that nature can not supply.
- To optimize grazing intake, increase digestibility and improve resistance.
- A well balanced lick programme will increase calving percentage, improve weaning weight, increase reconcepton rates and also allow for optimum grazing utilization.
- Improving the profitability of the operation is the main objective and without top performing animals this is nearly impossible to achieve.



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# THREE MAJOR LICKS CATEGORIES

- ❖ **Winter Licks (Protein)**
  - ❖ **Summer Lick (Phosphate)**
  - ❖ **Production Licks (Energy)**
- **The nutritional value of grazing changes with changing season.**
  - **Protein is therefore the principal nutrient lacking in winter grass.**
  - **In winter the grass is dry, tasteless and has insufficient protein.**
  - **Takes longer to digest and cattle graze insufficiently.**



# THREE MAJOR CONT . . .

- ❑ **Animals may lose extreme weight and body condition.**
- ❑ **Pregnant animals needs proper nutrition for herself and her unborn calve**
- ❖ **Production licks**
- ❖ **This type of licks can be given to animals during both wet and dry season.**
- ❖ **Composition of production licks differ according to production aims, type of animal and the quality of available grazing.**



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# Examples of cattle



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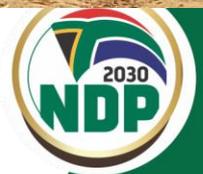


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# Record keeping

- ❖ **Records are very important and most of farmers neglect this activity**
- ❖ **Farmers must learn to treat each animal as production unit and monitoring individual performance.**
- ❖ **Keep track of input costs.**
- ❖ **When the animal receive veterinary care – record the date, dosage, reason for treatment and type of medicine.**
- ❖ **All activities at the farm should be recorded and that includes even selling and purchasing of livestock, licks and medicine.**



# Thank you very much



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