

Natural Health Care & Nutritional Supplements for Livestock



2-Feb-10

The following products may be useful to prevent and treat health problems in livestock. If you are unsure about the dosage or whether a supplement is suitable, consult a veterinarian.

Activated charcoal is used to treat poisoning in all animals. It binds to the toxin, and the toxin compound is then excreted. Some farmers also use activated charcoal to treat bloat in ruminants and to help control internal parasites in livestock. Activated charcoal is available in a powder form.

Apple cider vinegar provides potassium and is reputed to prevent both mastitis and difficult births. The vinegar also helps to balance the PH of the rumen. Vinegar can also be applied externally for ringworm.

Bentonite clay is a natural type of clay, also known as montmorillonite. Oral ingestion may lead to improvements in feed efficiency, weight gain, and levels of butterfat in milk. Bentonite is also used to treat diarrhoea.

Nutra-Fix contains probiotic bacteria and live plant enzymes. Available in both a dry and liquid form, it is used to increase the level of beneficial microorganisms in the animal's gut or rumen. It is most effective at times of stress, weaning, and illness or after changes in diet. It helps to balance the PH of the gut in poultry, ruminants and hogs.

Bran is the flaky, fibrous part of grain. It is often fed to ruminants, sows and mares in late gestation. Bran provides roughage but is less bulky than hay, and works as a laxative.

Brewers' Yeast contains B-vitamins and is used to increase milk yields of goats and cows, improve health, and increase resistance to worms, fleas, ticks, and other parasites

Calcitic lime provides calcium. Most complete feed rations contain either dolomitic or calcitic lime. Additional lime should not be added to the feed unless required.

Crushed oyster shell provides calcium for laying birds. It can be offered free choice. This is not always available for sale. **Shell rock** can replace this product.

Diatomaceous earth (DE) is used to control internal and external parasites. DE is a natural product, made from the powdered remains of marine invertebrates. Although it looks like a soft powder, the tiny particles have sharp edges that rip the bodies of intestinal worms, larvae, insects and other pests. DE also contains 14 micronutrients. Note that DE can cause lung damage if inhaled by either humans or animals. Handle it while wearing a dust mask and keep it away from air movements.

Flax contains omega-3 fatty acids, protein, vitamins and minerals. Flax can be provided as **oil** or cold-pressed flax **meal**. Either form is reputed to lead to higher rates of milk production, higher butterfat content of milk and faster growth in cows and dairy goats. Also, sows fed flax tended to recover more quickly from the demands of gestation and lactation.

Garlic (fresh or dried) is used to repel worms, fleas, ticks and other parasites when ingested. In addition, many farmers give their animals garlic in order to improve their immune systems. We have dried form available year round.

Grit is needed by poultry to digest their food. Grit is simply ground granite rock. It is provided free choice to poultry in a separate hopper. Free-ranging birds may be able to acquire adequate levels of grit from the soil. However they may need additional grit during the winter when the ground is frozen; all confined birds require grit.

Herbal de-wormer is used to discourage worms in goats, sheep, cows and horses. It can be used on certified organic farms and there is no withdrawal period needed for either milk or meat.

Homeopathic remedies are available upon request. We carry Mastitis remedy and Staph., strept., and E. coli. Please give us two weeks to bring in your order.

Hydrogen peroxide is used primarily for disinfecting barns, feeders and waterers. Organic dairy farmers can substitute hydrogen peroxide for bleach compounds used in cleaning milk lines and other equipment. Some organic farmers also add hydrogen peroxide to the drinking water of all farm animals to help improve disease

resistance, treat scours and repel internal parasites. Metering devices are available to continuously add hydrogen peroxide to the drinking water.

Kelp provides over sixty minerals as well as vitamins, all of which are needed for growth, milk production and a healthy immune system. Although kelp is often included in organic feed, many livestock producers also allow animals' access to more kelp. The kelp is either provided free choice, or used as a top-dressing on feed.

Liquid protein feed is a liquid colostrum whey product. It is used after illness, to treat mastitis, and after birthing to improve the animal's immune system.

Mineral premixes are formulations of concentrated minerals, designed to meet the nutritional needs of different livestock species. All complete feeds contain the mineral premixes. Some farmers provide additional free choice minerals, or add them to mixed grains. Mineral premix ratios 2:1 means, two parts calcium and one part phosphorous. We use twice as much calcium.

Molasses is a source of quick energy and contains trace amounts of minerals and B-vitamins. During late gestation and right after birth, providing molasses can help prevent pregnancy toxemia (ketosis).

Probiotics have been described as "the opposite of antibiotics." Probiotics are used to foster the populations of desirable microorganisms in the gut and reduce the populations of undesirable ones, such as the pathogenic strains of *E. coli*. They can be used routinely to increase rumen function and improve health. Probiotics are particularly beneficial when the animals are under stress, either from giving birth, weaning, extreme weather conditions, shipping or a change in feed (eg. going from hay to pasture).

Redmond clay is a trace mineral colloidal silicate. The clay ties up toxins, which are then excreted. It is said to improve rates of weight gain and feed conversion. Buffers (such as sodium bicarbonate) should not be used at the same time as the clay.

Sodium bicarbonate is a buffer, used to reduce the acidity of the rumen and reduce the likelihood of acidosis. Buffers are most important during early lactation, when ruminants are fed large amounts of silage, or when grain and hay are fed separately. With cows, buffers improve milk yield and help to prevent milk-fat depression.

Sulphur (dusting sulphur with 99% S) is applied externally to help control lice and other external parasites. Taken internally, it has been known to improve digestion and increase the resistance to internal and external parasites.

THYMOX is an agricultural disinfectant made of natural active ingredients that offers a wide spectrum of efficacy and is fully biodegradable. Safe for the user and the environment, THYMOX is today's product of choice because of its innovative character, its effectiveness and its ability to satisfy stringent food security requirements, from farm to table. Efficacy tests in several types of porcine and avian buildings have demonstrated the outstanding efficiency of THYMOXTM. In each case, total bacterial flora and *E. coli* bacteria were evaluated before and after building disinfection and on different types of surfaces (concrete, wood, steel grates, plastic).

Trace mineral salt is included in complete feeds, however it is often provided free choice to provide minerals as well as sodium chloride. It contains 95% salt and 5% minerals including calcium, potassium, sulphur, copper, iodine, iron, phosphorous, manganese and zinc. It is available as loose granular salt or natural lick blocks.

Vitamins A, B, C, D and E can be added to feed as needed. B-vitamins can be helpful for animals that are stressed or recovering from disease. Deficiencies in vitamins A and D can lead to low fertility and birthing problems in many livestock. Vitamin E and selenium are given to newborn lambs and kids to prevent or treat white muscle disease. Vitamin C is sometimes used to treat diarrhea and poisoning.

White Vinegar 12% is used the same way as Hydrogen Peroxide to disinfect barns, feeders and water troughs.

***Note:** Consult the price list for formats and pricing. Detailed information handouts are available for some items. Verify suitability with your organic certifier.*