Poor nutrition impacts growth rates, performance, reproduction, milk yield and impairs immune function. Trace element availability plays a key role when discussing any of the above parameters and it is well-documented that ensuring the optimal trace element status of your herd is crucial for productivity and profitability.

The important trace elements required by cattle are Copper, Cobalt, Selenium, Iodine, Zinc and Manganese. Their levels in soil and hence grass/silage are highly variable, both regionally and locally. Farm-specific investigations (including forage analysis and blood sampling) should be performed regularly to assess trace element requirements and to highlight any periods of potential deficiencies.

If deficiencies are highlighted we have a wide selection of boluses to suit every farm’s individual needs. Care must be taken not to over-supplement as this can result in toxicity.

At this time of year, grazing must provide all the trace element requirements for cow health and for the growing needs of their developing calf. Now is the time to ensure that their trace element requirements are met to ensure the best possible outcome for autumn calving cows and heifers.

We are stocking an innovative and exclusive range of unique boluses new to the UK market. Within this range, there are two trace element boluses and a 40-hour calcium bolus, all at very competitive prices.

**Oligovet™ Dry Cow.**
A high-content three-month single bolus designed to deliver a consistent supply of six important trace-elements (Copper, Selenium, Cobalt, Iodine, Zinc, Manganese) along with Vitamins A & E in the months leading up to calving and during the critical first few weeks of lactation.

**Oligovet™ Super Grazing.**
An eight-month single bolus contain Copper, Selenium, Cobalt, Iodine and Zinc providing trace-element supplementation throughout the grazing season with fewer handlings.

**Oligovet™ ElectroPidolate™ Max.**
A 40-hour calcium bolus to cover against milk fever. This patented bolus technology helps calcium transport, delivering faster and higher absorption of calcium compared with standard mineral formulations.

If you want to discuss any trace element issues, sample some of your stock or want advice on supplementation options and timings please get in touch with one of our vets or talk to Mark Pass at Beeston Animal Health.
Risk of Milk Fever in Dairy Cows

The most common complication of managing pre-calving cows on grass based diets is milk fever. Even when a degree of feed supplementation or mineral supplementation is provided the risk of milk fever remains high on many units especially following periods of rapid grass growth.

At calving the calcium requirement of a dairy cow increases massively with the onset of milk production. To supply this demand she not only absorbs calcium from her diet but she also requires calcium mobilised from her bones which act as a reserve. We tend to see more milk fever in older cows as their bones are harder and the calcium is less readily available. In order to get the calcium moving, cows need a diet which is high in magnesium and low in calcium pre-calving which is where having a diet based on grass can cause problems.

Many diets which are grass based have a high level of potash which limits the absorption of magnesium. Potash levels are particularly high in heavily stocked pastures and those that have had slurry applied. The risk of milk fever can be reduced by avoiding these high potash forages and high risk pastures. Supplementing magnesium is also helpful in this period, this can be done by a variety of mechanisms such as magnesium boluses, magnesium salts added to feed or water supplies and high magnesium minerals/dry cow concentrates. The risk of milk fever can be further reduced by giving calcium boluses at the point of calving and in the first 24 hours after calving. For more specific advice on reducing the risk of milk fever in your herd speak to any of the vets.

Nantwich Show Invitation . . .

We look forward to welcoming you all for refreshments on our stand at The Nantwich Show Wednesday 26 July
Get your own back on our vets and help support Send a Cow!!! Enter our draw for a chance to win the opportunity to throw wet sponges at our vets.
As part of XLVets we are supporting the charity Send a Cow. Their mission is to give families and communities in some of poorest countries in Africa the hope and the means to secure their own future from the land. This starts with education but leads onto growing crops to feed their families and communities and eventually to owning their own cow. Please help us to support this worthwhile cause.