

## Organic vs. Inorganic mineral sources

The source of mineral in the diet can affect the performance of the animals and the cost-effectiveness of the supplementation program. The relative bioavailability of the mineral and the amount of the mineral in the supplement are important factors to consider when purchasing a mineral supplement. Organic mineral sources are characterized by the presence of an amino acid or carbohydrate carrier for the trace mineral that is to be fed to cattle. In a process informally termed **chelation** or **protonation**, the organic carrier molecule is chemically bound to the trace mineral of interest. Inorganic sources of minerals are much more commonly encountered in the livestock feed industry. They are mined or chemically synthesized from natural mineral sources and are not bonded to a carrier molecule. They are fed as the naturally occurring inorganic mineral complex.

## Do you need to feed Vitamins to Beef Cattle?

Proper supplement is important because the natural foodstuffs available to the animal are not always adequate sources of the vitamins needed. Supplementation is also important because certain feeding styles do not necessarily meet vitamin requirements of the animal. Animal health is extremely dependent on meeting requirements of the vitamins and minerals.

## The cows Immune System

The immune system is highly dependent on vitamins & Minerals for proper functioning.

## How many mineral feeders do I need out?

A good rule of thumb is to provide one mineral feeder for every 20 to 30 cows. Depending upon the geography of a particular grazing area, adjustments may need to be made. Evaluate the range and determine mineral feeding areas that will provide an opportunity for every cow to find a feeder at least every other day.



Mineral

Feeder

Available At Reimers Feed Mill!

## Where should the mineral feeder be placed?

Feeders should be placed in locations where cattle will find them frequently. Placing them along trails between the feed ground and water supplies is generally very successful. Adjusting the distance that mineral is located from water sources is a key tool used to control mineral consumption; moving the mineral closer to water sources generally increases mineral intake, while moving feeders farther from water will often decrease intake.

## How often should I put out fresh mineral?

It is suggested that fresh mineral be delivered on a weekly basis. Doing so will allow you to monitor intake and adjust feeding locations and number of feeders as situations change and challenges arise.

## How much mineral should my cattle eat?

If Mineral is properly managed on a year-round basis, We anticipate that average intake will be between 3 and 4 ounces per head per day.

## Sometimes my cattle eat too much mineral and other times they hardly eat any. Why is That?

Mineral intake patterns change with diet quality, Stage of production, Climatic changes and cattle management. Seasonal fluctuations will always exist, and become more challenging in larger pastures. Cattle can utilize mineral reserves in their tissues during periods of non-consumption.

Keep in mind that nutritional wisdom is a myth, so just because cattle aren't eating mineral doesn't mean they don't need it. Perhaps they can't find it, or they simply found something they'd rather eat.

