

Facial Eczema Protection

Zinc products and doses

Treatment with Zinc can be an effective method of controlling Facial Eczema. Adhering to the following guidelines will ensure the maximum benefit is gained. The Zinc needs to be at the correct level in the animal before the spore count is too high. Once spore counts approach 20,000-30,000, they will be impacting livestock growth and production. The spores are more toxic when they are fresh i.e. when the spore count is rising.

Care is required in the use of Zinc – overdosing can be toxic and underdosing ineffective.

There are three strategies of Zinc treatments:

1. Long term dosing: Routine treatment of Zinc administration either by drenching or in-shed feed (**Zinc oxide**) or dispensing through an in-line metered water dispenser (**Zinc sulphate**). Dosing should begin at least 2-3 weeks before the spore counts are likely to rise. This is the preferred method for cows that are milking.
2. Crisis dosing: Used when spore counts are high and dosing has not yet begun. This can be toxic to the animals, especially using the weekly high dose. Talk to your veterinarian for dose rates.
3. Zinc boluses: The use of the relevant Faceguard boluses for both cattle and sheep allows prolonged protection with a single administration. This is the preferred method for Dry Stock

Dosatron or Peta-Dispenser treatment of water supply for milking herds (long term dosing);

- Zinc Sulphate **Hepta** 8gms per 100kg ie 500kg cow should be getting 40gms per cow per day
- Zinc Sulphate **Mono** 5.5gms per 100kg ie 500kg cow should be getting 27.5gms per cow per day

Please note:

- **If you are using VetPlus mineral mix it doesn't have enough zinc to protect against facial eczema.**
- **Direct addition of Zinc sulphate to the water trough without using an in-line dispenser is not recommended.**

Oral Drenching for milking herds (long term dosing);

- Zinc Oxide 2.6gms per 100 kg ie 500kg cow should be getting 13gms per cow per day (using the correctly mixed drench recipe)
- Zinc Oxide can be added to feed blends, please discuss quantities and rates with us

Faceguard treatment for sheep and cattle includes the correct dose of the following options;

- **Sheep - Faceguard Sheep**
 - **2 boluses 25-40kg**
 - **3 boluses >40kg**

- **Cattle**
 - **Faceguard 90-250kg**
 - **3 boluses 90-130kg**
 - **4 boluses 131-200kg**
 - **5 boluses 200-250kg**
 - **Faceguard 251-660kg**
 - **3 boluses 251-330kg**
 - **4 boluses 331-440kg**
 - **5 boluses 441-550kg**
 - **6 boluses 551-660kg**



Treatment

Cows showing clinical signs of facial eczema can recover if prompt action is taken

- Dry off affected cows immediately, to reduce pressure on the liver
- Put zinc cream (Filtabac) on white areas of the coat and the udder (if affected)
- Move affected stock into dense shade. Indoors is best (hay-barn, calf-rearing and implement sheds) but make sure there is a good water supply and supplementary feed available for cows
- Feed cows at night, so they are not exposed to sunlight and stop hard grazing so cows do not graze down into dead matter where the spores that cause FE are found
- Feeding maize and/or silage can help, but cows will still tend to graze if they are kept on pasture
- Use vitamin B12 supplementation
- Seek veterinary advice regarding additional pain relief treatment.

Be aware that animals can take up to 12 months to fully recover.

Animals with a previous history of clinical FE have a lower chance of recovery than previously unaffected animals.

When making decisions to cull cows act early before body condition score and the severity of the condition cause unnecessary distress and suffering. If sending cows for processing farmers need to be aware that animals will not be accepted if emaciated or with severe skin damage (sores, weeping wounds etc.). However bear in mind that jaundiced (yellow) animals will be condemned at the slaughter plant.

ANY QUERIES OR CONCERNS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR VET.

