



# Is your Mineral Program Working for your Herd?

Mineral nutrition is important in creating a healthy and productive cattle herd, but how do you know if your mineral program works?

The nutritional needs of a beef cow can be complex, but there are some basic questions to help determine if your cattle mineral program is working for healthy cows with good reproduction. Poor management of minerals can lead to improper intakes, excess waste, increased open cows, poor cattle performance; ultimately affecting your bottom line.

The goal of a cow calf producer is to get cows pregnant and have that cow raise a strong healthy calf. So how do we know if your mineral program is complimenting your herd's genetic potential?

## Here are some questions to ask:

- Are my cows on a 365-day calving cycle?
- Are cows breeding back?
- What percentage of my cows cycle in the first heat cycle?
- Is the breeding season longer than 85 days?
- Are conception rates over 90 percent?

When your calving season gets longer, because cows aren't breeding back and staying bred, it affects the uniformity of your calf crop uniformity and ultimately your bottom line.

## Are my cows consuming enough mineral?

There are a number of factors that impact consumption:

- Season
- Forage quality
- Water quality
- Weather
- Stage of production
- Palatability of the mineral
- Mineral placement

## How to calculate mineral consumption:

$$\text{Mineral Consumption} = \frac{\text{Pounds of mineral disappeared}}{\text{Number of cow's X days for mineral to disappear}}$$

To discuss your herd's mineral needs, please contact your Trouw Nutrition Representatives, or visit our website for a complete list of our locations across Western Canada.