

meatup FORUM

For the latest in red meat R&D

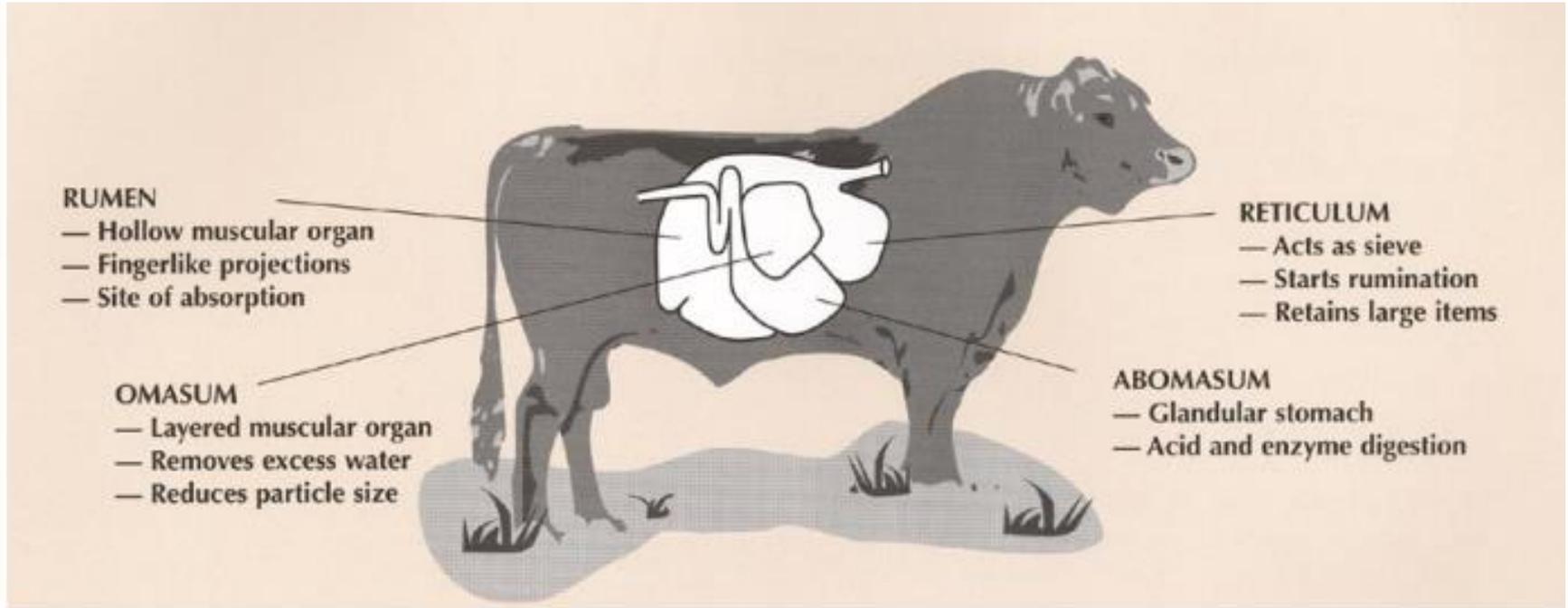
Nutrition in the Rangelands

Deb Scammell
Talking Livestock

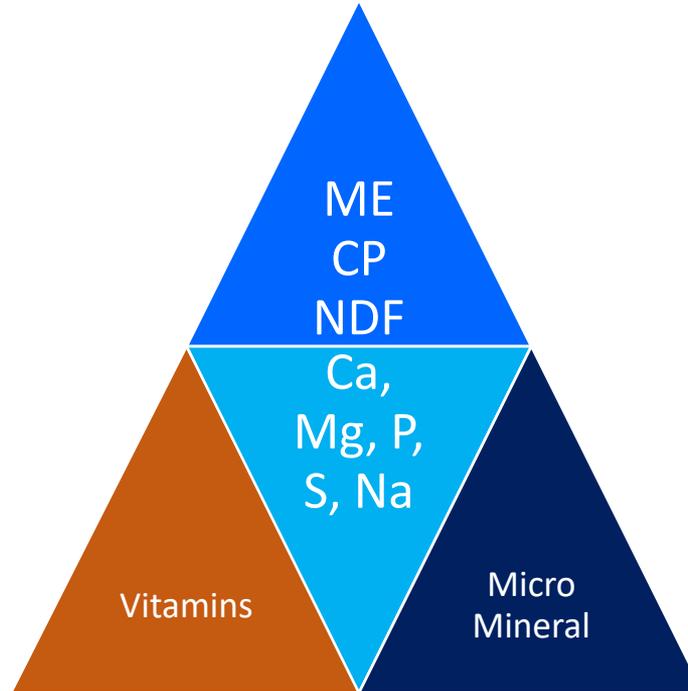
Topics Covered

- Beef Cattle Requirements
- Condition scoring stock
- Deficiencies
- Supplementation and methods

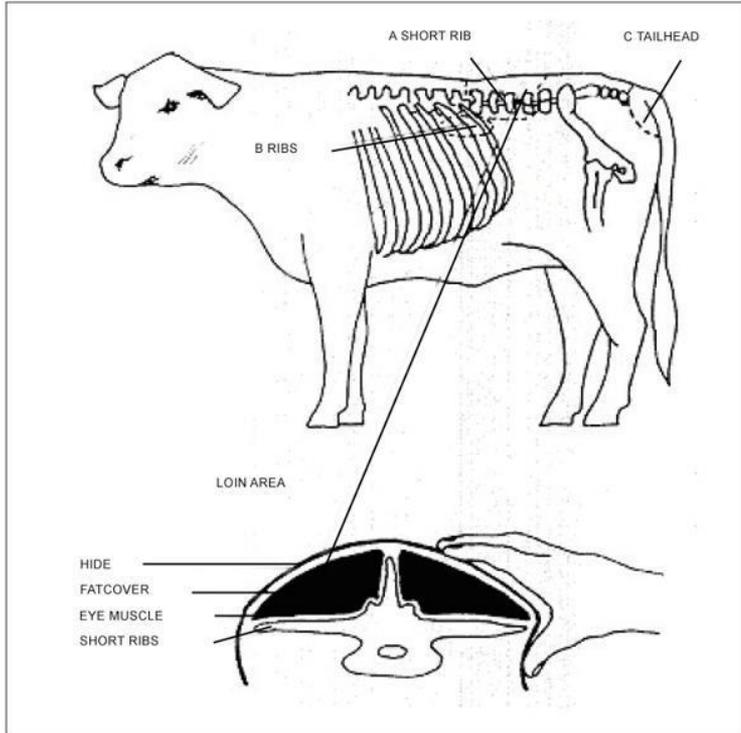
Ruminant Anatomy



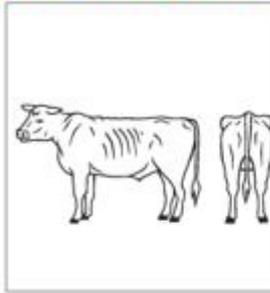
Livestock Essential Nutrients



Condition Scoring stock



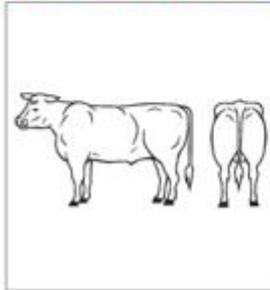
CONDITION SCORE 2



Individual short ribs easily felt, but feel rounded rather than sharp. Some tissue cover around the tail head.

- Backbone visible
- Hips and shoulder bone visible
- Ribs faintly visible
- Tail-head area slightly recessed
- Body outline bony

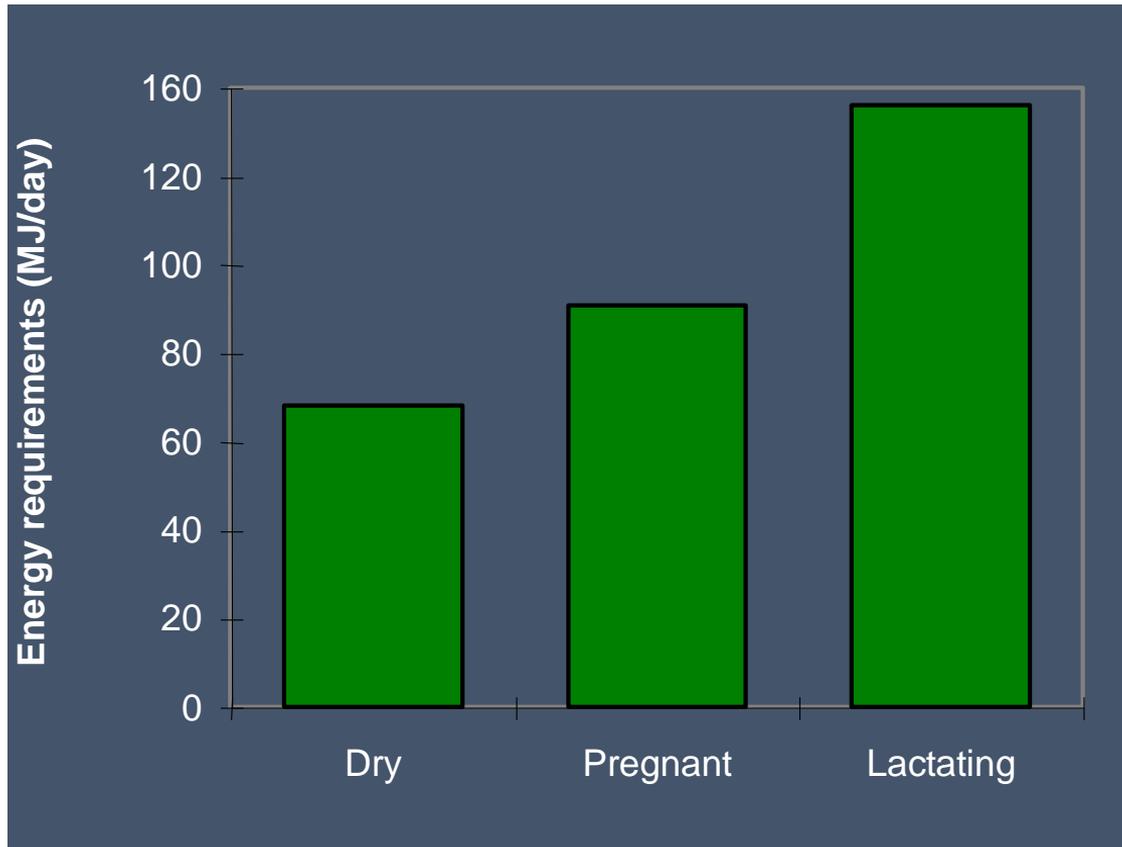
CONDITION SCORE 3



Short ribs only felt with firm thumb pressure. Fat cover on either side of tail head that can be easily felt.

- Hip bones faintly visible
- Ribs generally not visible
- Tail-head area is not recessed
- Body outline almost smooth







Feed supplementation



Mineral Supplementation

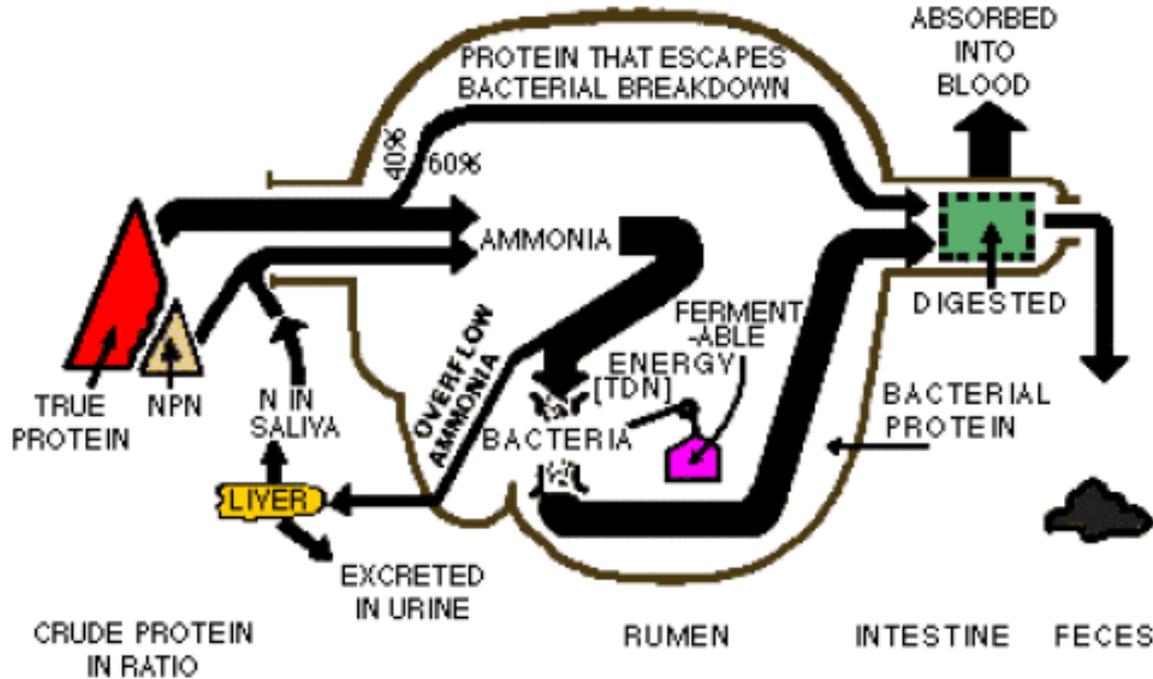
Water based

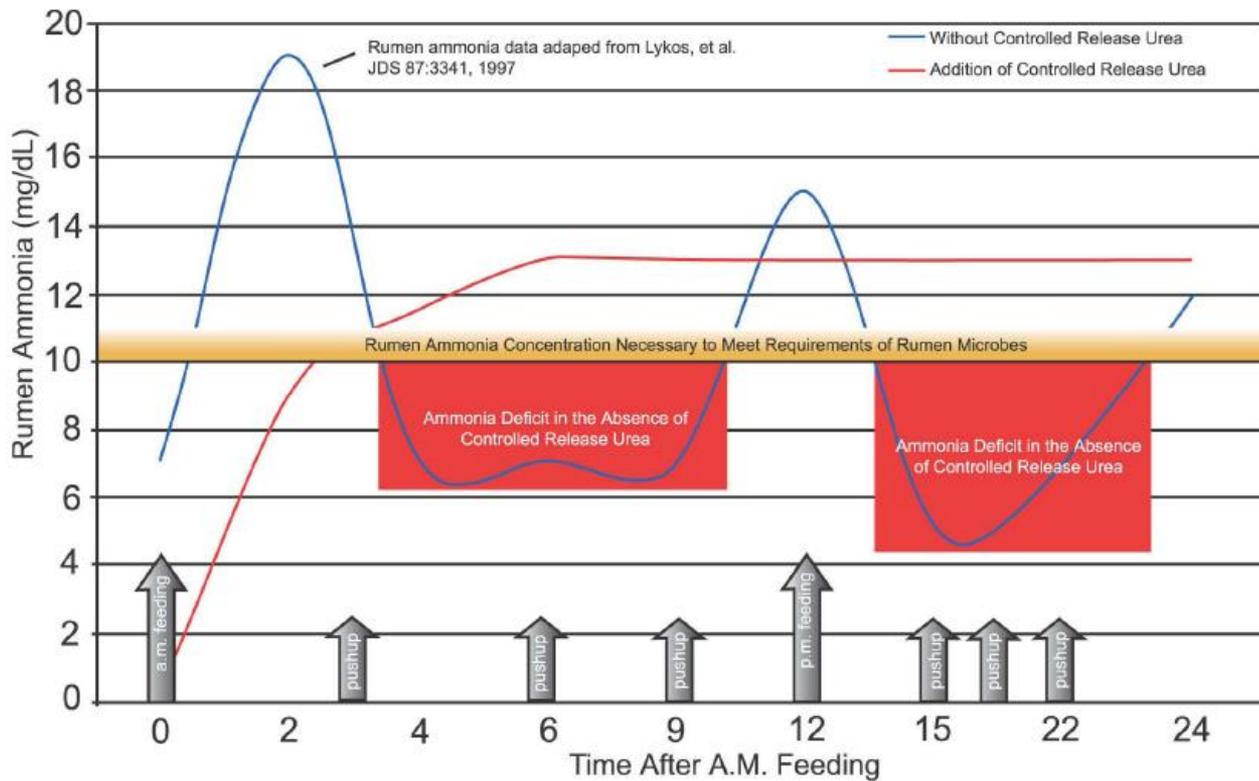
Molasses based

Licks

Blocks

Protein Supplementation





Protein Supplementation



Dung pat consistency suggesting that diet is still satisfactory for protein and digestibility levels

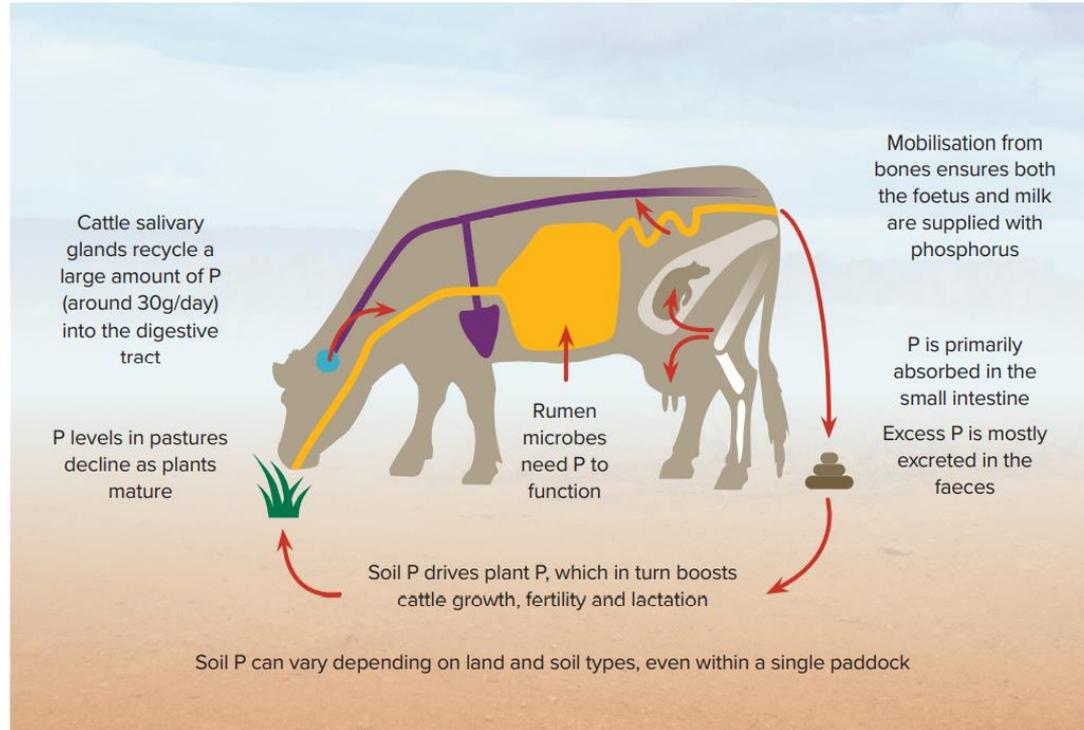


Consistency suggesting NPN supplementation would be beneficial



Too late!

Phosphorus

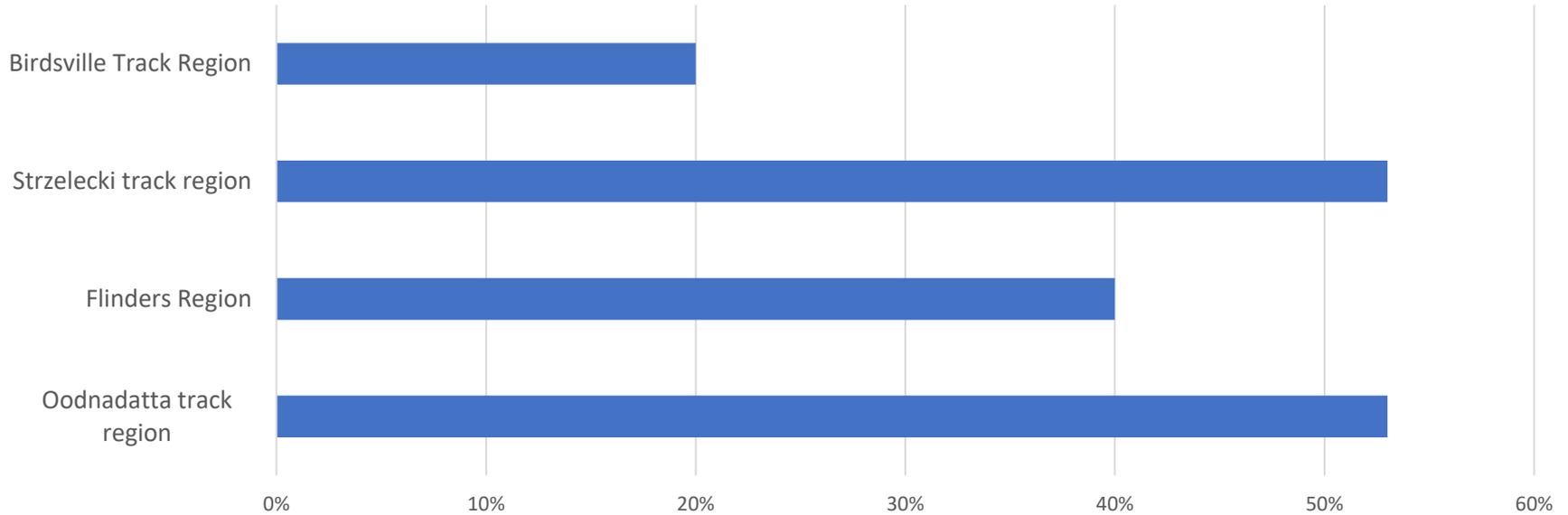


Phosphorus deficiency?

- Poor appetite & Feed Intake
- High breeder mortality rate
- Reduced fertility and milk production
- Bone breakage & deformities
- Peg Leg
- Eating bones

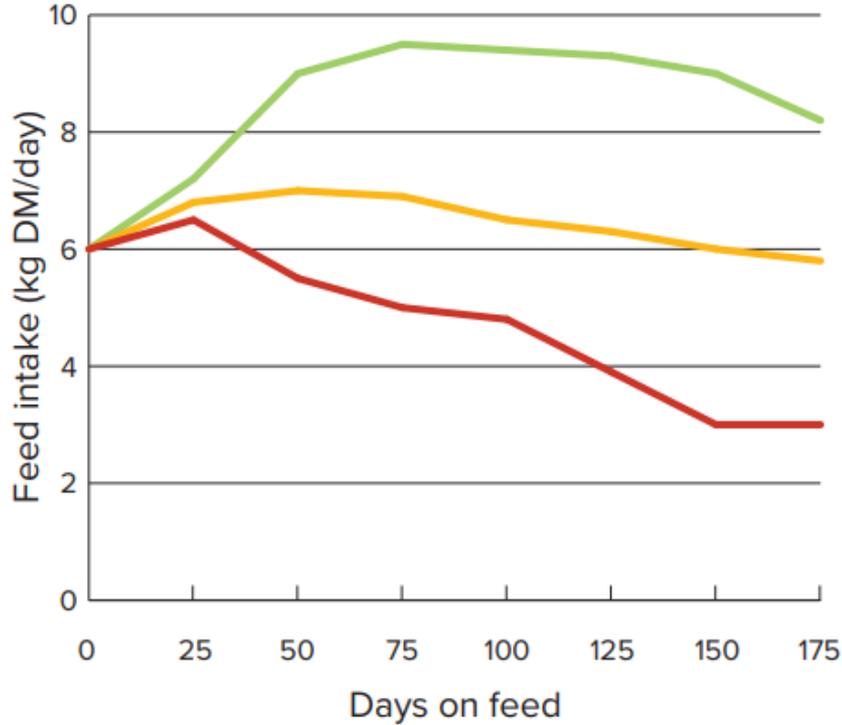


Adult Cattle with Phosphorus Deficiency



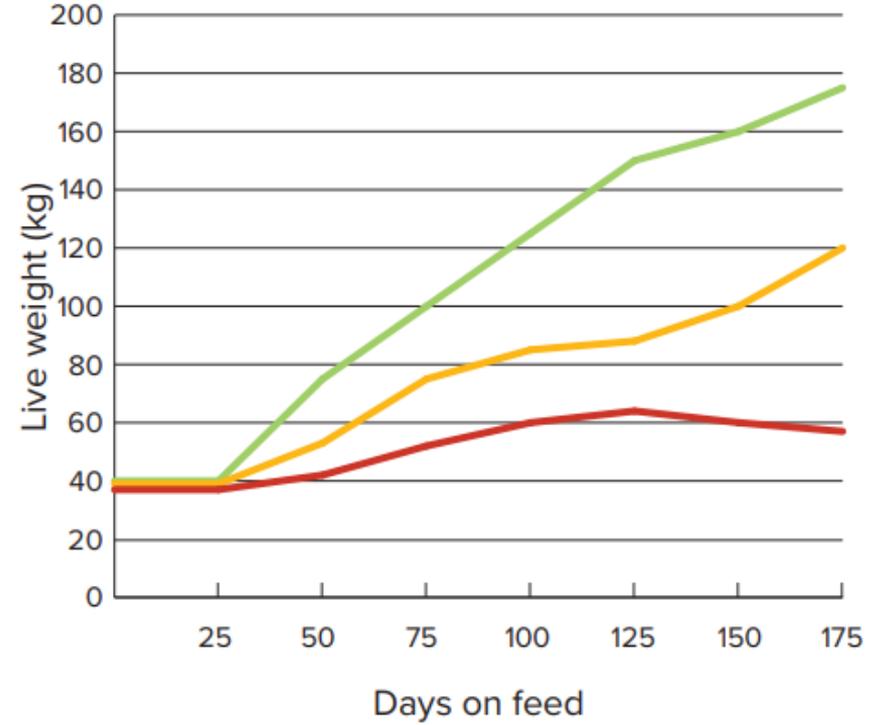
PIRSA Animal Health Surveillance project 2004

Feed intake



— low P — medium P — high P

Live weight gain



— low P — medium P — high P

Source: MLA Why do cattle need phosphorus

Trials have demonstrated

- Weaning weights and rates ↑
- Birthweights and growth rates ↑
- Breeder cow liveweights ↑
- Breeder mortality rates ↓

Testing for P Status



Lick Sheds



Assessing supplement

- Cost per nutrient required
- Fillers and ingredients not required
- Ease of delivery

Take home messages

- Condition scoring is crucial to determine value in feed available
- Consider what is restricting production
- Identify the most cost-effective method to supplement
- Compare supplements on price, nutrient delivered and ease of delivery

Tools and resources

- MLA: Phosphorus advice: mla.com.au
- More beef for pastures pastoral online manual: mla.com.au
- Profitable grazing systems – building better breeders