



Media release

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Copper deficiency causing grief for East Coast farmers

East Coast farmers are seeking the expertise of Ballance Agri-Nutrient's representatives to boost copper levels in their pasture.

Ballance Technical Sales Representative Shaun Bicknell says in the last year an increasing number of farmers from the East Coast and the Wairarapa have experienced problems as a result of copper deficient pastures.

"More and more farmers are coming to me and the other Ballance representatives in the area with concerns about unhealthy stock – reduced growth rates and broken bones are among the more common complaints.

"Ballance technical sales representatives are able to provide advice on lifting copper levels and improving the condition of pasture which, in turn, will impact positively on animal health. Because it is an animal health issue, it is important farmers approach their local vet or animal healthcare specialist in the first instance if they have concerns about the health of their livestock," says Shaun.

Shaun is working closely with a local Wairarapa farmer, who owns a 500 hectare farm with 200 breeding cattle, in an attempt to increase the copper levels on his farm. This particular farmer has experienced ongoing problems with unhealthy looking stock as a result of copper deficiency.

"In the next few weeks we are looking to apply a special mix of nitrogen, copper, urea and selenium to the pasture to build the herd's natural copper reserve before the calving period. This is the first year that we have trialled such a mix but we are hoping for good results."

Copper deficiency is a real problem in the East Coast and can lead to a number of ailments in stock including poor fertility or growth rates, and, in severe cases, broken bones among stock.

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