Facial Eczema

The complete range of facial eczema supplements.
Managing Facial Eczema

**Significant Production Losses**

Clinical cases are often only the tip of the iceberg. It has been estimated that for every cow with visible signs of facial eczema or elevated GGT levels, there are thirty sub-clinical cases, where liver damage is not detected and the cow is outwardly healthy.

Trials conducted in the Waikato calculated the effect of low doses of Sporidesmin on milk yield. Over a three week period of grazing low levels of Sporidesmin, production across the herd had dropped by as much as 25%. These cows did not exhibit any detectable liver damage when tested for GGT levels.

Farmers often attribute production losses to something else resulting in productivity and income being adversely affected.

*The effect of 3 low doses of Sporedesmin on milk yeild. (AgResearch Trial)*

**Planning**

Control methods should be in place by early February at the latest. Facial eczema risk summaries are available by region, with facial eczema pasture spore counts and cow liver damage levels (GGTs) monitored. However, facial eczema risk can vary greatly from herd to herd, and even from paddock to paddock, so it is important to be prepared and only use regional counts as a guide.

**Pasture Management**

- Hard graze paddocks to reduce amounts of rank, dead pasture material prior to the facial eczema season.
- Avoid topping paddocks in late Summer/Autumn, which increases the amount of dead leaf matter present.
- Monitor climatic conditions and on-farm spore counts so you know the risk. District trends are certainly useful but indicative only.
- Identify your highest risk areas and if possible avoid animals grazing them.

**Animal Management**

- **Zinc Sulphate Monohydrate:** Concentrated product which contains 36% Elemental Zinc
  Dose Rate: 5.5 g per 100 kg LW
  (1.98 g Elemental Zinc per 5.5 g dose)
- **Zinc Sulphate Heptahydrate:** Contains 22% Elemental Zinc
  Dose Rate: 9 g per 100 kg LW
  (1.98 g Elemental Zinc per 9 g dose)
- **Zinc Oxide:** Contains 80% Elemental Zinc
  Dose Rate: 2.5 g per 100 kg LW
  (2 g Elemental Zinc per 2.5 g dose)

Zinc can be toxic if given at higher than recommended rates for the prevention of facial eczema and/or for prolonged periods of time. The copper, selenium and calcium status of animals should be assessed at the completion of zinc treatment.

**Reducing the Impact of Facial Eczema**

Prevention is the only recognised method of dealing with facial eczema, but no one method is totally effective. However, in combination with good management practices, the risk of facial eczema can be significantly reduced.
An all in one solution during the facial eczema period, containing elemental zinc whilst maintaining copper levels through the inclusion of organic (protected) copper. Also delivers cobalt and selenium, for improved rumen function and immunity.

Contains per 40 g dose: Cobalt 2 mg, copper‡ 150 mg, selenium 2 mg, sodium 3.6 g, zinc 10 g. ‡ Protected.

25 KG

An all in one ready to use product designed as a convenient and effective solution to zinc dosing. AquaZinc® contains elemental zinc, protected copper and trace elements. Added molasses, kelp and flavouring encourage uptake of treated water.

Contains per 100 ml dose: Cobalt 2 mg, copper‡ 100 mg, selenium 2 mg, zinc 10 g. ‡ Entirely from an organic source.

200L

A liquid organic (amino acid chelate) source of supplemental copper. Organic minerals have a greatly increased availability to animals. NutriPlex® Copper is ideal for addition to water when dosing high levels of zinc sulphates or where antagonists such as iron, molybdenum and sulphur are present.

Contains per 1 ml dose: Copper‡ 87.5 mg. ‡ Entirely from an organic source.

20 L / 100 L / 200 L

Providing an ideal combination of energy and trace minerals to help sustain optimal production and animal health over the facial eczema period. Provides copper in its protected form to help maintain and improve copper status.

Contains per 1 kg dose: Cobalt 10 mg, copper‡ 150 mg, iodine 6 mg, selenium 3 mg. ‡ Entirely from an organic source.

BULK
What is Facial Eczema?

Facial eczema occurs mainly in the northern half of New Zealand, where the fungus, *Pithomyces chartarum* grows on dead and dying pasture in late Summer and Autumn. It produces a toxin, Sporidesmin, which cows eat when grazing pastures high in fungal spores.

The effects of eating Sporidesmin are not seen immediately, there is generally a lag of 7-10 days between ingestion of the toxin and appearance of clinical signs. Clinical cases of facial eczema are well recognised, looking like severe sunburn (photosensitisation), affecting the animals' back, udder and face.

A healthy liver processes waste products from the breakdown of chlorophyll (phylleoythrin) and excretes them from the body. Sporidesmin attacks the liver so that waste products and free radicals build up and accumulate in tissues and under the skin, causing photosensitisation. GGT levels indicates the extent of liver damage.