

EVOLUTION IN TRACE MINERAL SUPPLEMENTATION CONTINUES AS FIRST TOTAL REPLACEMENT FORMULATION IS LAUNCHED

Widespread and increasing evidence on the efficacy of some essential organic trace minerals as total replacements for conventionally used inorganic equivalents is set to revolutionise feed formulations and trigger substantial benefits for the feed and farming industries.

So said Alltech's (title) Patrick Charlton, speaking at the launch of Massey Feeds' new FiMLAC winter dairy range, which is the first major compound feed in Europe to formulate with total replacement of inorganic zinc, manganese and selenium with proven organic trace minerals.

"There is now sufficient research data available from peer reviewed studies for major feed companies to have confidence in the total replacement concept," he reported. "Since organic minerals, or chelates, were first introduced, their use has been as a partial replacement for inorganic compounds – or even as a supplement on top of conventional sources.

"Total replacement is the next step in a process of evolution and there will be benefits throughout the feed and farming industries and in the wider environment. Alltech's Bioplex organic minerals and Sel-Plex selenium present the trace elements in a natural form, which combines safety and increased efficacy and ultimately means improved performance from livestock."

Mr Charlton illustrated the concept of total replacement in UK dairy rations by using selenium as an example.

"Selenium has an important role in every living cell but is commonly deficient in forages and grazed grass in the UK," he explained. "So effective selenium supplementation is vital to the overall health and profitability of dairy herds, with selenium status being directly linked to key performance parameters including fertility, milk yield, somatic cell count and calf health.

"Traditionally, selenium has been supplied in the form of inorganic sodium selenite, but this is a substance of restricted potential due to its inherent toxicity and relatively poor assimilation characteristics in the animal. Sodium selenite is significantly inferior to the organic selenium Sel-Plex, for example, in terms of absorption, retention in tissues and biological activity at target sites – as research evidence has shown widely.

"The widespread research on Sel-Plex resulted in this product becoming the first organic selenium supplement to receive EU and FDA approval for use in dairy, beef, calf, pig and poultry diets. This has led to selenium being the first of the essential trace elements to be used as a 100% replacement for inorganic minerals. We are now seeing the trend develop with the inclusion of Bioplex Zinc and Bioplex Manganese as total replacements for inorganic zinc and manganese respectively.

“Ultimately, the use of more efficacious forms of these key trace elements will lead to more optimal feeding levels that will not only benefit animal performance but will also lead to reduced residues in the environment.”

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