

LICK WHEEL TANK CHECKLIST

MANAGEMENT TIPS & GUIDELINES

Free-choice feeding of liquid supplement is a convenient and economical method for supplying nutrients to livestock. The management practices outlined below **MUST** be followed for safe, efficient utilization of the liquid supplement.

Feeding Program

Cattle need a healthy rumen fueled with adequate forage to benefit from liquid protein supplements. QLF beef cow supplements are designed to complement a roughage diet and enhance forage utilization-not substitute for it.

BE SURE:

- Cattle are in good healthy condition
- Cattle have, and have had, access to adequate forage; cattle are NOT fasted or underfed (if not feed cattle until full, and ensure adequate forage will continue to be available at all times)
- Proper minerals and salt have been fed free-choice for a sufficient period prior to lick tank availability (intake leveled out at expected intake rate, if not, do this **BEFORE** allowing cattle free access to the lick tank)
- Adequate fresh water is available (if not, do **NOT** place tank)
- Other NPN sources (e.g., ammoniated hay) will be accounted for to avoid exceeding recommended levels of total dietary NPN

Lick Tank Placement

QLF protein supplements are designed for delivery via lick-wheel feeders, or incorporation into the ration – not open tanks or troughs. Feeding at the lick tank should require a specific ‘decision’ on the cow’s part; overconsumption will occur if the tank is available for casual feeding near where the cows will be spending time for other purposes.

BE SURE:

- Tank is clean, top and lick wheels are secure, lick wheels rotate freely, tank is set level
- Tank is placed where cattle do not congregate; minimum of 50 feet from water
- Tank is not placed on path to water, or under shade trees or behind windbreaks where cattle congregate
- Tank is located away from possible sources of contamination, e.g. roof run-off
- Tank is placed to avoid excessive heating and restricted air circulation

Management

Your supplementation program should be based on defined goals and expected intake. Management should include monitoring performance and consumption, and taking basic precautions to ensure maintenance of product quality.

BE SURE:

- Any new cattle being placed with lick tank access will be well-fed before moving
- Lick tank consumption will be checked on a regular schedule and adjustments made in tank location and forage availability, if needed
- Additional forage or grain to be fed in case of storm conditions, snow or ice cover, or other restrictions on pastures, stalk fields or range
- If cattle cannot access product for 2 or more days (tank completely empty or physically inaccessible, cattle moved before tank, etc.), the animals will need to readjust to the liquid supplement; handle the refill as a new placement (be sure cattle are well-fed, recognized potential for temporarily increased intakes, etc.)
- Lick tanks will be clean as needed, or once a year

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