TRIAL REPORT SUMMARY

Wilmar Liquid Stockfeeds for supplementation of joined cows in Central Queensland

INTRODUCTION

Much of northern Australia's cattle grazing is based on native pastures and low-fertility soils. This can mean year-round deficiencies in phosphorus and other minerals, and dry season deficiencies in protein and energy.

Achieving good fertility rates in breeders under these conditions is challenging. Given that the critical mating weight for mature Brahman-cross breeders in the dry tropics is 380kg (Goddard, et. al. 1980), this trial set out evaluate the effect of Wilmar Liquid Stockfeed supplements on mature cows in Central Queensland.

The supplements used were SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea and SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos.

KEY FINDINGS

- Both empty and pregnant cows achieved significant weight gains with either SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea or SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos
- SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos demonstrated the greatest benefit by addressing phosphorus deficiency in native pastures
- Both SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea and SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos are an affordable protein and phosphorus solution for breeders in the dry season.

TRIAL SITE AND METHOD

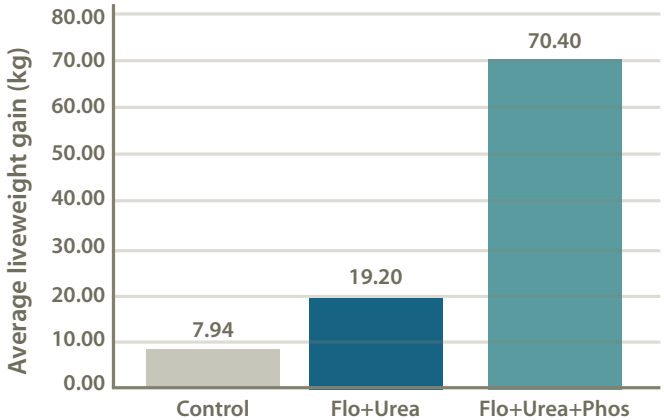
The trial was held on a large Central Queensland grazing property with spinifex native pasture over a 102-day dry season period. Mature Brahman-cross breeders with an average liveweight of 330kg were split into three groups. Each group of 35 joined breeders was placed in a different paddock.

- In one paddock, the cattle were provided no supplement
- In the second paddock, cattle were fed SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea
- In the third paddock, cattle were fed SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

All cattle were weighed before the trial, and after 102 days of feeding. They were also pregnancy tested at 102 days.

Average liveweight gain for Brahman-cross empty cows



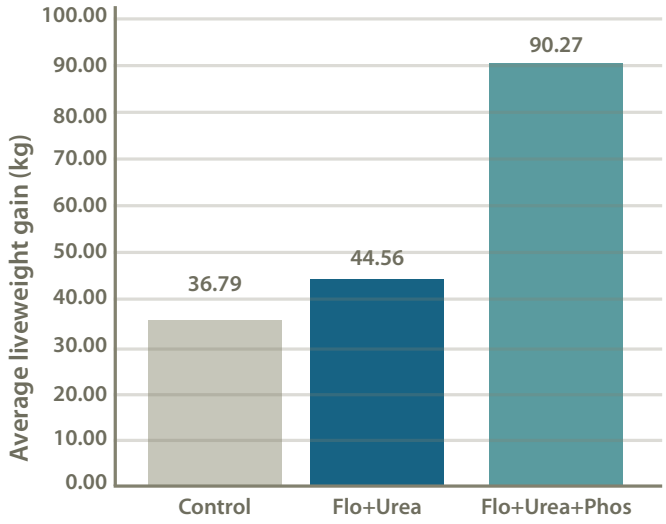
Average liveweight gain for Brahman-cross empty cows grazed with no supplement (Control), with Suplaflo® 10NP+5%Urea (Flo+Urea) and with Suplaflo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos (Flo+Urea+Phos) for 102 days.

wilmar

TRIAL REPORT SUMMARY

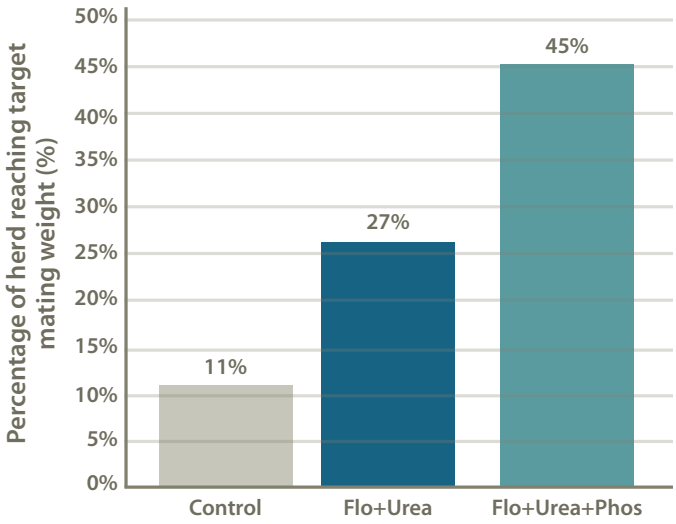
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Average liveweight gain for Brahman-cross cows in third trimester



Average liveweight gain for Brahman-cross cattle in their third trimester grazing with no supplement (Control), with Suplaflo® 10NP+5% Urea (Flo+Urea) and with Suplaflo® 10NP+5% Urea+Phos (Flo+Urea+Phos) for 102 days.

Percentage of Brahman-cross empty cows reaching critical mating weight



Graph representing percentage of empty cattle reaching target mating weight of 380kg after having no supplement (Control), being fed Suplaflo® 10NP+5%Urea (Flo+Urea) and Suplaflo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos (Flo+Urea+Phos) for 102 days.

The below table breaks down the costs and benefits of feeding supplements. It demonstrates a net return of up to $2257.50 for fed cows compared to $972.22 for non-fed cows.

	Control	SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea	SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos
Daily feed cost per head	$0	$0.30	$0.48
Daily feed cost for 35 cows	$0	$10.50	$16.80
Feed cost of herd for 100 days	$0	$1,050.00	$1,680.00
Percentage of herd reaching critical mating weight	11%	27%	45%
Number calves expected for next season*	2	5	8
Price per weaner at sales	**$500**	**$500**	**$500**
Return	$972.22	$2,333.33	$3,937.50
Return - feed costs	**$972.22**	**$1,283.33**	**$2,257.50**

*35 cows x [%reaching critical mating weight] x 50%.

Source: Goddard, et. al. (1980)

CONCLUSION

The results show that SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea or SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos are affordable and effective solutions to address protein and phosphorus deficiencies in Central Queensland. Significant weight gains were achieved across both empty cows and pregnant cows. Further, the proportion of cows that reached critical mating weight was four times greater in the group fed SuplaFlo® 10NP+5%Urea+Phos compared to the non-fed group.