

## Plan Ahead for Grass Green-Up

Grass green-up is just around the corner and, although you may be itching to turn your cows onto new spring growth, don't forget to prepare them for it well ahead. Early, fast-growing grasses often contain less available or inadequate magnesium levels to meet your animals' needs. Therefore, you should prepare cattle for intake of these succulent forages with a magnesium source such as Purina's *Wind and Rain™ High Magnesium Minerals* [see below].

Dr. Leo Eldridge, manager of the veterinary services laboratory at LongView Animal Nutritional Center, Gray Summit, Mo., recommends that producers start supplementing magnesium in their cattle's diets one month before turnout in order to avoid grass tetany. "Get them on it and get their magnesium level up," he says. "The idea is when they come out on to that fast-

growing grass in the springtime, they're body is loaded and they're ready to go." Magnesium won't hurt cattle, even if they eat plenty of it, he says.

Mature cows that are near calving or are 1-2 months post-calving are most susceptible to grass tetany and need a watchful eye. Eldridge explains, as a cow approaches calving, there is a greater demand on her body. Afterwards, lactation especially "pulls" on her system. "You get a combination of low calcium and low magnesium," he says.

Aside from these cows, also watch for animals that repeatedly show signs for this disorder. "There is a genetic predisposition to grass tetany," Eldridge says, and he recommends culling these susceptible animals. "Those are animals that you don't necessarily want to reproduce."



These are other preventative measures to consider:

- Select and plant grasses which concentrate magnesium. Two examples are rye grass and wheat grass.
- Use magnesium-rich fertilizer.
- Spray magnesium sulfate on spring pastures.
- Feed cattle extra hay during the early spring period.
- Inject hay bales with magnesium.
- Add legumes to pastures.
- Occasionally soil test pastures to ensure proper potassium, magnesium, and nitrogen levels. Soil testing can head off grass tetany problems, Eldridge says.

Purina offers a full lineup of *Wind and Rain™ Minerals* with high magnesium content. Consult with your Purina dealer or representative to see which formula best fits your operation.

## Purina's Wind and Rain™ High Magnesium Minerals

	Avg ounce/lb/day	Avg Sulf %	Avg Calcium %	Phosphorus %	Magnesium %	Potassium %	Copper ppm	Zinc ppm	Manganese ppm	Cobalt ppm	Iodine ppm	Selenium ppm	Vit. A I.U./lb	Vit. D I.U./lb	Vit. E I.U./lb
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN HI-MAG 4 CMP</b> Weather-resistant, with highest magnesium content (14%).	4.0	20.0	12.5	4.0	14.0	0.1	1100	3700	2115	50	115	27	50,000	5,000	50
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN HI-MAG 4 CMP CTC2800 MTH95.2</b> Standard Wind and Rain High-Mag with IGR fly control and Aureomycin.	4.0	20.0	12.5	4.0	14.0	0.1	1100	3700	2115	50	115	27	50,000	5,000	50
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN NW HI-MAG 4 CMP</b> Weather-resistant, with highest magnesium content; includes trace mineral fortification for the Pacific NW states.	4.0	20.0	12.5	4.0	14.0	0.1	2500	7500	2115	50	115	27	50,000	5,000	50
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN HI-MAG 8.5 CMP</b> A 10.5% magnesium weather-resistant mineral with a high phosphorus content (8.5%). Phosphorus is essential for growth and reproduction.	2.0	20.0	9.5	8.5	10.5	0.1	1100	3700	2115	50	115	54	100,000	10,000	100
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN HI-MAG 7 CMP AVAILA-4</b> A 10% magnesium mineral that has organic trace minerals at the Zinpro Corp. recommended rates.	4.0	20.0	12.0	7.0	10.0	0.1	1100	3168	1760	106	115	27	300,000	30,000	300
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN HI-MAG 7 CMP AVAILA-4 CTC2800</b> A 10% magnesium mineral with organic trace minerals at the Zinpro Corp. recommended rates, plus Aureomycin.	4.0	20.0	12.0	7.0	10.0	0.1	1100	3168	1760	106	115	27	300,000	30,000	300
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN HI-MAG 7 CMP AVAILA-4 CTC2800 MTH 95.2</b> A 10% magnesium mineral with organic trace minerals at the Zinpro Corp. recommended rates, plus Aureomycin and IGR fly control.	4.0	20.0	12.0	7.0	10.0	0.1	1100	3168	1760	106	115	27	300,000	30,000	300
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN FESCUE HI-MAG 5 CMP CTC2800</b> A 10% magnesium weather-resistant mineral specially designed for fescue forages, with Aureomycin.	4.0	20.0	13.5	5.0	10.0	0.1	1467	4935	2820	67	155	27	300,000	30,000	300
<b>WIND &amp; RAIN FESCUE HI-MAG 5 CMP CTC2800 MTH95.2</b> A 10% magnesium weather-resistant mineral specially designed for fescue forages, with IGR fly control and Aureomycin.	4.0	20.0	13.5	5.0	10.0	0.1	1467	4935	2820	67	155	27	300,000	30,000	300