





## Mineral Basics

- Monitoring consumption of cattle mineral supplements offered free-choice is important.
- Commercial mineral mixes have a target consumption rate included in the feeding directions.
- Both over and under consumption of mineral supplements can cause issues.
- Examples of problems related to mineral consumption include sudden death of nursing cows and grass tetany from a magnesium deficiency or re-breeding problems from a copper deficiency.
- High levels of sulfur, molybdenum or iron can further complicate deficiencies in other minerals.
- Proper mineral consumption is especially critical when it contains medications such as chlortetracycline (CTC).
- Moderate variation in mineral consumption will occur throughout the year.
- Season, pasture moisture, mineral feeder location all can affect mineral intake.

## Calculating Simple Mineral Intake

- Use when the # head remains constant.
- Add the total amount of mineral fed.
- Determine the total number of days' mineral was fed.
- $\text{oz/hd/day} = (\text{total mineral fed} \times 16) \div (\text{days mineral was fed} \times \# \text{ head})$
- For other calculations, use the Mineral Intake Calculator at: [BeefExtension.com/pages/cccalc.html](http://BeefExtension.com/pages/cccalc.html)