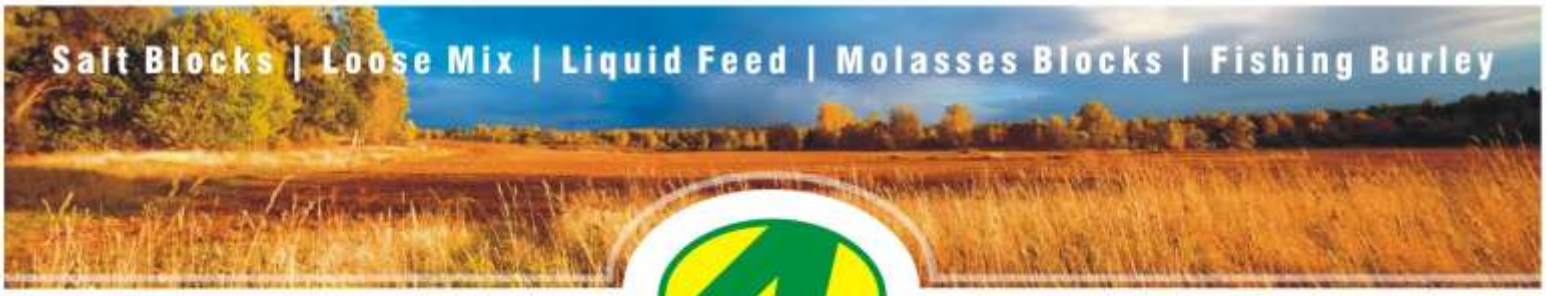

M E D I A R E L E A S E

SEASON

Premium Animal Nutrition

Salt for sheep and cattle. As old as the pyramids

Egyptian farmers used them, as do many progressive farmers today. Natural salt based supplements are a vital ingredient for balancing rumen sodium levels, ensuring maximum ruminant production when grazing pasture or cereal crops.

If sheep and cattle lack salt (NaCl) and other nutrients that are lacking in soils, productivity of grazing animals deteriorates markedly. Phosphorus (P) and salt deficiencies in parts of Northern Australia directly affect fertility rates of grazing cattle every year. Magnesium (Mg) and salt deficiencies in southern Australia see many cattle suffer from diseases such as grass tetany, which leads to unacceptable levels of cow deaths every year during autumn and winter. View our article. Salt supplements containing high levels of sulphur (S) fed out on tropical coastal areas are seen as part of a holistic way to help control buffalo flies, lice and ticks in cattle. Many old timers swear by such a natural but scientifically unproven remedy. View our advertisement.

Many in the past believed that super phosphate fertilizer was the Holy Grail for animal health. There is no doubt that correct fertilizer strategies increase plant volume and carrying capacity. Yet as more people practice sustainable care of their soils, some believe that artificial soil stimulation has led to a virtual soil lock up of vital minerals and trace elements. For example, selenium (Se) deficiency in sheep and cattle is a recognized disease, as a result of heavy super phosphates over many years, having led to increased acid soil levels and decreased soil microbe activity.

Literally hundreds of thousands of tons (100,000's) of free choice supplements are now sold every year in Australia for livestock, clearly indicating that the market now understands that pasture alone isn't enough for cattle and sheep. It's a big business sector and growing, as farmers are enjoying increases in natural grazing productivity thanks to such elemental free choice basics

History can be a teacher, and it seems we can never stop learning. The wise fathers of old knew what their animals needed and practiced sustainable techniques in agriculture in line with nature, something that progressive farmers of today are embracing once more.

Charles (Chick) Olsson BEc. MAICD.

Director .Four Seasons Pty Ltd.

Contact: m.0403 045 664/ www.fourseasonco.com.au