



“DEATH BY  
MAGNESIUM DEFICIENCY  
I PRESUME?”



## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

Magnesium deficiency, or grass staggers, is still a significant cause of death in cattle during the early Spring period. The disease is **ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TREAT** as the onset of symptoms is generally very rapid and for most farmers, the earliest indication that they have a magnesium problem is a dead animal. Given this, **PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES** must be employed to minimise the risk.

### The major points to consider are as follows:

1. Provide magnesium to cattle prior to the spring grass flush.
2. Try and bring animals in at night for the first week. Especially in cold, wet and windy weather.
3. Reduce silage and any concentrate feeding gradually in the run-up to turn-out.
4. Delay the use of potassium rich fertilisers until later in the year.
5. Watch out for poor weather – staggers cases increase dramatically on wet, windy days and frosty nights.
6. Consider a belt and braces approach to magnesium supplementation – use a bolus and free access products.

The only effective means of giving each individual animal a guaranteed supply of magnesium during the high risk period is by using Rumbul magnesium bullets.

These boluses are given 2-3 days prior to turn-out. The boluses last 28 days and will provide a consistent supply of magnesium to cattle, every minute of every day during their active life.

**It does not pay to run the risk of losing cows – start thinking about staggers now.**

Rumbul Magnesium Bullets for Cattle contain magnesium. Further information is available on request. Legal Category POM-VPS



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“DEATH BY  
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## CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

Magnesium deficiency, or grass staggers, is still a significant cause of death in ewes during the early Spring period. The disease is **ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TREAT** as the onset of symptoms is generally very rapid and for most farmers, the earliest indication that they have a magnesium problem is a dead animal. Given this, **PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES** must be employed to minimise the risk.

### The major points to consider are as follows:

- 1 Provide magnesium to ewes prior to the spring grass flush
- 2 If lambing indoors, supplement with magnesium prior to turn-out
- 3 If lambing outdoors, supplement to coincide with the period 2-6 weeks post lambing
- 4 Try and keep ewes with lambs aged 2-6 weeks on the same pasture – moving them can trigger staggers
- 5 Delay the use of potassium rich fertilisers until later in the year
- 6 Watch out for poor weather – staggers cases increase dramatically on wet, windy days and frosty nights
- 7 Consider a belt and braces approach to magnesium supplementation – use a bolus and free access products

The only effective means of giving each individual animal a guaranteed supply of magnesium during the high risk period is by using Rumbul magnesium bullets. These boluses are given 2-3 days prior to turn-out or to coincide with the period 2-6 weeks post lambing. The boluses last 21 days and will provide a consistent supply of magnesium to the ewe, every minute of every day during their active life.

**It does not pay to run the risk of losing ewes – start thinking about staggers now.**

Rumbul Magnesium Bullets for Sheep contain magnesium. Further information is available on request.  
Legal Category POM-VPS



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