VUNA AGRI

LET GOODNESS THRIVE.

SHAMROCK FARM ENTERPRISES SEAWEED-BASED MINERAL BLOCKS

INTRODUCTION

During 2021, VUNA AGRI became a local distributor of seaweed-based mineral blocks for livestock (horses, cattle and sheep) manufactured by Shamrock Farm Enterprises. These blocks fit with our mission towards creating and contributing to ***better*** and ***more sustainable agro-ecosystem***s for plants and animals to thrive in.

A little about Shamrock:

'Shamrock Enterprises was created 30 years ago by James O'Doherty in County Tipperary, Ireland. The goal of the company from its creation was to offer natural Agri and Equine products that are compatible with all types of farming. Our nutritionists and veterinarians, in conjunction with our R&D department, formulate unique seaweed-based nutritional solutions. We are committed to providing 100% natural products, with the necessary amount of seaweed, minerals, vitamins and trace elements. Our commitment to excellence translates into superior quality, sustainable products, that are both natural and robust. All of our Agri supplements are certified by the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine and are UFAS certified. Our Horse Range is BETA certified. Shamrock is an ISO certified company. Our R&D department is doing a lot of ongoing research to develop products that will replace antibiotics.

The company's mission is to strive for excellence by focusing on personalised service and delivery of superior products. Shamrock Farm Enterprises products are ***Animal, Consumer and Environmentally (ACE)*** *friendly and our commitment to excellence is conveyed through our superior products and continued repeat business. We use sustainable, natural and robust ingredients to ensure positive outcomes for your farm.'*

WHY SEAWEED?

Seaweed is an ***unrivalled multi-supplement*** that delivers a blend of natural nutrients that can address deficiencies from soils or feed. Seaweed contains over ***60 minerals, and trace elements, vitamins, carbohydrates, amino acids, essential fatty acids, natural bio active hormones, growth factors and antioxidants.*** The ocean contains a constant reservoir of micronutrients that are absorbed by seaweed and stored within the algae in a protected, colloidal state. This colloidal structure means that **98% of all the micronutrients** are absorbed in the animal allowing them to fulfil their diverse range of functions. See Figure 1 below for more information on the benefits of seaweed for livestock.

Figure 1: How does seaweed benefit livestock?

The Shamrock Farm Enterprise mineral blocks also include a rumen buffer, ***Lithothamnium calcareum.*** This is a red alga that breaks down slowly in the rumen and has 2.5 times the buffering capacity of Sodium Bicarbonate. In cattle it is known to bring the pH of the rumen back to 6.3 sooner after eating and neutralises acid over a longer period of time. This action improves fibre digestion resulting in ***improved performance.***

A few of the products available in South Africa are shown overleaf.

SHAMROCK HORSE BLOCK

Shamrock Horse Block is a horse lick that contains natural calcium from *lithotamnium*, a red seaweed. It will balance the horse's diet, while improving its overall health. Shamrock Horse Block contains a full spectrum of minerals, trace elements and vitamins necessary for optimum health. The formulation of the product makes it suitable for all type of horses, from race-horses, to stallions, broodmares, event horses, old horses and foals.

Key benefits:

- Suitable for all types of horses;
- Helps blood circulation;
- Promote Reproductive Efficiency;
- Enhances bone strength;
- Supports Immune system;
- Promote Muscle contraction;
- Conditions Skin and Coat;
- Boost Metabolism;
- Strengthens Hooves; and
- Gastrointestinal Buffer.

NB: The Shamrock Horse Blocks were sold out in 2020 and new stock is currently being imported. Contact Justin on +27 82 383 1997 or justin@vuna-agri.com for more information

SHAMROCK GENERAL PURPOSE BLOCK

Boost the performance of your cattle using the power of the ocean! The Shamrock General Purpose Block is designed for cattle from **8 weeks of age** to boost overall performance.

This mineral block contains all minerals, trace elements and vitamins in a bioavailable format which helps address and protect against deficiencies impacting on overall health.

Key benefits:

- A palatable seaweed-based supplement that contains a rumen buffer, minerals, trace elements and vitamins;
- This is a complimentary feed stuff, offered *ad lib*, to calves (>10 weeks of age), heifers and non-lactating cows to boost overall performance and increase feed efficiency;
- Provides: good nutritional support, improves health, growth and development;
- Low usage rate;
- No fillers added;
- Available 24 hours/day throughout the year; and
- Average consumption rate is 20g/100kg bodyweight/day.

How long does a block last?

20g per 100kg body weight per day
400kg animal = 80g
Therefore, 500 feeds per 40kg bucket.
1 x 40kg bucket per 20 cows will last 25 days.

SHAMROCK HEIFER DEVELOPMENT BLOCK

Shamrock Heifer Development Block is a seaweed-based feed block designed for maiden heifer entering their first breeding season and throughout pregnancy.

The unique formulation of the Heifer Development Block drives weight gain and reproductive efficiency.

Shamrock Heifer Development Block is high in crude protein, minerals, trace elements and vitamins. It contains soya protein, which is the most digestible protein for animals.

Suitable for any calves or cattle **over 10 weeks of age.**

Key benefits:

- Improves digestive health;
- Improves Feed Efficiency;
- Promotes fertility and maintenance of pregnancy to terms;
- No other meals needed;
- No fillers;
- Low usage rate;
- Rumen buffer; and
- Weatherproof.

How long does a block last?

100 – 150g/head per day
Therefore, 233 – 350 feeds per 35kg block.
1 x 35kg block per 20 heifers will last 11 - 17 days.

Note: these blocks are not typical molasses based mineral blocks, they contain high quality seaweed and are highly palatable. The energy in these blocks comes from fats and oils rather than sugar.

WOULD YOU LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

Shamrock products are proudly and specially imported and distributed to suppliers and customers within South Africa by VUNA AGRI. Any technical queries can be addressed by your supplier or sent by email to justin@vuna-agri.com or orders@vuna-agri.com or made by phone +27 82 383 1997 or +27 78 731 6052.