Autumn has been and gone, time flies when your having fun!

It has been a very busy few months here at Compass Feeds, we sincerely thank our returning and new clients for their support.

Magforce was in high demand for Autumn lambers. It was great to see many producer have a pre-lamb plan in place. With a widely distributed dry season lets hope the benefits of such practices are still rewarded at lamb marking. It certainly has for some achieving lambing percentages of 130+. For all spring lambers remember to get your Magforce orders in early. We do our best to manufacture and distribute our products as efficiently as possible, with early orders we are able to plan ahead which makes our goals more achievable.

Welcome aboard Jason Oliver!!!!

You may have heard a new voice on the end of the phone when calling Compass Feeds. It is with great pleasure we introduce all our customers and friends to Jason Oliver, Jason has joined the Compass team, replacing Steve who has gone on to play golf in Queensland.

Jason has a very welcoming character, so, take advantage of getting acquainted by dropping in or using the phone or email to welcome him on board.

Jason can be contacted by email:

jason@compassfeeds.com.au

or  at the office 08 85568332

The Compass Feeds order email address is still:

cfeeds@bigpond.net.au

Paul, Rossco, Emma and all the team at Compass Feeds

www.compassfeeds.com.au
A big thank you to Cox Rural for inviting Compass Feeds to join them at the 2018 South East Field Days on the 16th and 17th of March. It was a successful weekend interacting with some of Cox Rural clients, as well as many individuals having the opportunity to catch up with Ross Wal-ler. Emma took the opportunity to trial her Yanven Kelpie ‘Rhia’ in the encourage yard dog trial. Rhia had a super run finishing third.

Karoonda was a family affair, spoilt with well manicured grounds and magnificent weather the weekend couldn’t be anything but enjoyable. Many in depth and interesting conversation took place with local and travelled farmers. Yanven Rhia competed in the yard dog trial bringing home another third, with close scores ranging from 88 points for 1st place and 80 points for 5th place.
Kapunda Farm Fair held on the 13th and 14th of April was full of quality exhibitors. Unfortunately the wind and rain rolled in late Friday arvo sending many tents into a tangled mess and many exhibitors packing an on their way. Fortunately the crowd still flowed in steadily braving the conditions making it an interesting two days.

Scarce feed and feeding livestock is still currently a familiar sight on our travels. Ross is inundated with giving support and nutritional advice to drought affected livestock owners. Many of these Northern Pastoralists are having to truck their livestock off property and put them in a feedlot situation further South, if they are wanting to retain their breeding stock.
Hypomagnesemia also known as grass tetany, grass staggers, lactation tetany and winter tetany a metabolic disease of cattle and sheep associated with low magnesium in the blood serum, characterized by nervousness, muscle twitching, ataxia, convulsions, recumbency with spasm and opisthotonos. Grass tetany is most prevalent in temperate areas, but probably occurs Australia wide. Greatest losses are seen when there is an early spring flush of feed along with mild weather and symptoms lessening as the season progress. As clover becomes more prominent within the pasture the incidence of disease reduces.

Magnesium is an important macro-mineral as an enzyme activator for the metabolism of carbohydrates, lipids and proteins. It also improves calcium and phosphorus metabolism and has a sparing effect on Vitamin D. It is an essential component of the bony skeleton and of the cerebrospinal fluid. Low magnesium concentrations in the cerebrospinal fluid is closely related to the two most prominent signs of grass tetany; excitement and muscle tremors. A majority of magnesium absorption occurs in the rumen, a small quantity of reabsorption occurs in the small intestine, a small quantity of absorption in the large intestine and a small amount recycled in the saliva. The requirements of magnesium by ruminants is dependent on the size, age, oestrus cycle, stage of pregnancy and lactation and weather conditions. As an animal ages, its ability to draw on magnesium bone stores is reduced; hence a daily dietary requirement is necessary to maintain adequate blood serum levels.

The cause of grass tetany is complex like all mineral deficiencies because of the blood mineral interrelationships. Calculating dietary magnesium to meet requirements is more complicated than supplying exact amounts. Information on the availability of the ingested magnesium to the animal and its utilization by the animal is critical. Grass tetany is not always solely caused by a magnesium dietary deficiency, but factors exist which either hinder magnesium availability or raises the animal’s requirement. For example, high crude protein: low energy, high potassium and low sodium are all factors recognized as reducing magnesium availability. Generally, pastures in intensive livestock production areas are high in potassium, due to topdressing with potash and/or nitrogen to improve herbage growth. An increase in dietary potassium of approximately 2.4 and 4.8% has the potential to reduce blood serum magnesium by approximately 7 and 10%, respectively.

Prevention:

Supply a good quality hay during the danger period.
Manage pastures to include a quality clover variety or applicable legume. Consult your agronomist about varieties suitable for your area.
Graze high risk pastures with low risk livestock (not lactating livestock).
Magnesium slow-release capsule
Specifically formulated loose-lick.
Consult a Veterinarian if symptoms are suspect.
FOR USE WHERE HIGH LEVELS OF CALCIUM AND MAGNESIUM ARE REQUIRED AND AS AN AID IN THE CONTROL OF HYPOMAGNESEMIA

ALL WEATHER FORMULA
FOR USE IN SHEEP AND CATTLE
COMPLIMENTS THE NUTRIENT SHORT-FALL IN GRASS DOMINANT PASTURES

JASON OLIVER

Compass Feeds welcomes Jason as the newest member to their team. With a respected background in warehousing, customer service, logistics, administration and management. We have no doubt Jason will quickly become a valuable team member and a critical member of the Management Team.

Jason resides in the township of Strathalbyn with wife Julie, two children Megan and Jade plus two crazy Labradors Jed and Ellie. Remaining close to his parents at Woodchester where they ran a Broiler farm from when Jason was 14.

Passionate about sport, Jason plays cricket and helps out in his daughter’s local U/16 football competition. As much as he enjoys AFL, unfortunately the body wont let him play anymore, so instead sticking to darts in his spare-time where injuries are few and far between.

compassfeeds.com.au
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TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE
HISTORY OF BEEF EXPORT AND GRAIN FED CATTLE

What was the first method of preserving meat for export into Britain in 1860?
Canning. A meat cannery was built in NSW in 1847.

What year did the first shipment of frozen meat from Sydney to the Port of London take place?
1880. The voyage took 64 days and was successful.

Two breeds of cattle were introduced to Australia for their tropical adaptation and to produce a source of supply of lean beef. Which breeds were they and what years were they introduced?

What were the initial reasons for lotfeeding in Australia?
Industry innovators saw it as a more profitable operation in the store/fat cattle market. Also to supply the domestic beef trade with a more consistent product.

What does ALFA stand for?

Who was the first ALFA President?

What does MSA stand for? What is its purpose? And when was it officially launched?
Meat Standards Australia.
It’s purpose is a national beef tenderness guarantee and grading scheme.
Officially launched in 1999.

*Fun fact: When and where the first lotfeeding took place is unknown. In the 1940’s and 50’s many individuals and companies were trialling possibilities on small scale, utilising Agri-industrial by-products. The art of the commercial era for lotfeeding was the 1960’s in Queensland.

Reference:
STOCK FEED MANUFACTURERS’ COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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