

All-Trace for Cattle

THE EFFECT OF BOLUS MEDIATED SELENIUM/VITAMIN SUPPLEMENTATION ON SOMATIC CELL COUNTS

<u>Trial Location</u>	University of Glasgow Veterinary School, Cochno Farm and Research unit.
<u>Livestock</u>	Adult dairy cattle.
<u>Objectives</u>	To investigate whether giving cows All-Trace to maintain levels of dietary selenium and vitamin E during the dry period can help decrease the incidence and severity of high somatic cell counts (SCC) and mastitis in dairy cows.
<u>Method</u>	<p>Trial was run in a single dairy herd (averaging 7000kg per lactation) over a 2 year period. As part of the dry cow management, on the day of drying off alternate cows (selected at random without regard to previous history) were given either two 'All-Trace' boluses or acted as unsupplemented controls. All cows were also given long-acting intra-mammary antibiotic in each teat. There were 52 cows per group. The SCC for each cow was determined monthly by the routine procedure of Livestock Services (UK) Ltd.</p> <p>Individual cows were given intra-mammary antibiotic during the next lactation as indicated by the appearance of fore milk or the skin temperature and appearance of the udder.</p>

Results The mean dry period was 57 days.

Administration of the All-Trace boluses to cows at the start of the dry period resulted in a significant reduction in both SCC and the need for antibiotic therapy during the following lactation.

The following observation was also recorded. In the bolus group 5 cows received antibiotic treatment in one or more quarter, compared to 12 in the controls.

Conclusion The trial demonstrated the potential of All-Trace boluses as part of the routine management of dry cows.

