

SmAllTrace Sheep (Trace element boluses for sheep)

THE EFFECT OF TRACE ELEMENT AND VITAMIN BOLUS SUPPLEMENTATION ON BLOOD NUTRIENT LEVELS IN SHEEP

Trial Location Individual upland farms in Scotland

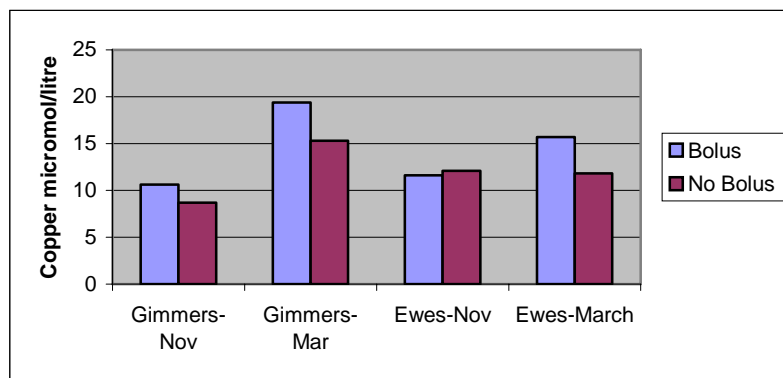
Livestock Upland ewes and gimmers.

Objectives To assess whether SmallTrace sheep can help maintain normal levels of Copper and selenium in sheep in areas where there is a nutritional imbalance of copper and selenium.

Method Upland sheep were bolused early in November. Blood samples were taken at the start and the following March (5 months on).

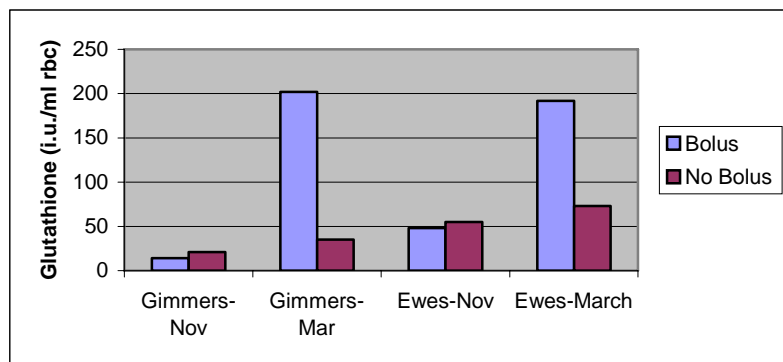
Blood Copper levels

Mean blood copper levels were on average 33% higher in the bolused ewes and 26% higher in the bolused gimmers in March.



Blood Glutathione (Selenium) levels

GSHPx (Selenium) levels were 2.6 times higher by the end of the study in the ewes receiving the bolus and 5 times higher in the gimmers receiving the bolus.



Conclusion Supplementation with a bolus can maintain normal blood levels in sheep for at least 6 months—the active life of the bolus.