

TLC PASTORAL Santa Gertrudis Stud

'Temple Bar'
Iparpa Rd

Alice Springs
NT 0871
1/04/08

PO Box 189

Dear Committe Members,

Firstly, as far as I can determine, this was only advertised locally last week!

We operate a modest dryland pastoral enterprise in Central Australia - our family has operated in the pastoral industry in Central Australia since 1948, on our own land since 1957.

The last 20 years has seen substantial development in feed suppliments for cattle in our environment, particularly in the area of injection into stock water ("water medication"), as delivery technology improves in capacity and reliability. By delivering suppliments via the water, stock receive the designated amount relative to their bodyweight, as opposed to the less accurate, (and more expensive) use of "lick blocks". We have found such suppliments critical in maintaining production of our livestock.

The major ingredients, in both delivery systems, are Urea, (ammonium nitrate, as in lawn fertiliser), and ammonium sulphate, along with various trace elements etc. While "premixs" are available, we have found that mixing our own suppliments is far more economical, and appropriate, as we are able to "tweek" the formula as required.

Surprisingly, thankfully, the availability of urea has not been too problamatical, and we hope it stays that way. However, the quality of urea has dropped substantially - imported urea from Indonesia is of particular concern, as it is full of trash - scraps of packaging, and goodness knows what. Better quality Australian produced urea is less and less common.

Ammonium sulphate has been problamatic. While it is readily available in supermarkets and garden supplies in smaller packaging and higher cost, our only "bulk" supplier, Elders, have refused to stock or supply it for some twelve months now, claiming it is on a list of dangerous substances since Sept. 1th. Ironically, they still stock and sell substantial amounts of urea.

While we have been able to source some ammonium sulphate elsewhere, we do not know where we will be able to source the next lot from, in quantaties and packaging sutable for our enterprise.

We cannot understand Elders stance, as we understand that ammonium sulphate is supplied and transported in bulk (tipper road train loads) from Whyalla to the broadacre farming areas of NSW.

Please don't hesitate to give me a call with any queries.

Sincerely

Rod Cramer
for TLC Pastoral

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