

Supplementary Feed Options Update 25-01-2019

Persisting dry conditions are seeing many beef producers beginning to supplement cattle and seek a fibre source such as hay or silage, or finish calves off before the weaner sales.

Molasses is now all but unobtainable locally. As a result price rises are being seen in molasses urea mixes, this is largely due to imported molasses now being used to keep these products available.

As paddock feed declines supplements such as lick blocks, loose licks or molasses urea mixes become less useful. All these supplements are designed to help increase feed intakes; therefore an available fibre source must be provided at all times, so introduce hay or silage to account for less standing feed. Most hay or silage around locally however will still require additional protein especially for lactating cows or young stock classes, exception is possibly good ryegrass hay or silage but consider the cost.

As in the last update speak with your agent to determine current value of cattle and potential market options to ensure supplementary feed is being used as efficiently as possible.

Below is the updated list of what is commonly used to supplement cattle in our region, with a current trading price range and availability.

This list is intended as a guide, so be sure to contact your preferred feed supplier to determine actual price and availability relative to your circumstances.

Commodity	Availability	Price Range (ex GST)	Comments on Change from last update	General Comments
Cotton Seed Meal	Very Limited, to Not Available	\$650-700/tonne	NO Change	Demand is presently greater than supply Not likely to change until the cotton harvest kicks off later in the year
Whole White Cotton Seed	Very Limited to Not Available	\$650-700/tonne	NO Change	Really restricted to producers who can handle a bulk load. Price includes freight to Casino

Canola Meal	Very Limited to Not Available	\$540-600/tonne	Very limited still as a lot of canola crops were frosted in the south and didn't make grain	Price Includes freight Casino
Soybean Meal	Available	\$880 – 950/tonne	Available	Very expensive for beef cattle, Protein level high often >47%CP. High rumen degradability meaning usually need to feed more frequently compared to cottonseed meal, - seek advice.
Palm Kernel Mean (PKE)	Available	\$380 - 450/tonne	Price cheaper if you can handle bulk loads, becomes dearer if purchasing in 1000kg bags	Good energy and protein source 11MJ/ME and 15%CP on average. Slightly unpalatable and can require mixing with a small amount of grain. High in oil and fibre. Avoid getting it wet as it can become rancid. Seek advice if you haven't used this before
Molasses	Very Limited	\$225 - 235/tonne	Very limited to not available locally. Imported molasses beginning to be used in some places to fill contracts	Pricing is guide for bulk loads, which is 12T to 25T. Smaller quantities may be available but check pricing.
Liquid supplements (Molasses + Protein)	OK at present	\$0.65 – 0.85/Litre	Holding but + \$0.05/kg this is reflecting the decline in molasses availability	Various trade names with different mixtures, contact supplier for exact pricing and freight costs
Loose Licks (protein based)	Limited	\$800-1,200/tonne	Most have adjusted mixes and have included more urea to compensate for less protein meal	Check urea content and remember that urea supplements are only of benefit if there is adequate fibre present as either paddock feed or provided as hay or silage
Lick Blocks (Protein Blocks)	ok at present	\$120-140/100kg block	Holding	Smaller blocks more expensive per kg.
Feed Lot meal/pellets	Good at Present	\$520-560/tonne	Holding	Price is Bulk load. Higher in smaller quantities. Various rations around. Contact supplier.
Whole Barley	Ok	\$415-440/tonne	Local supplies could be cheaper due to reduced freight but most is coming from out of region	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Sorghum	OK	\$360-400/tonne	Seasonal conditions will guide price as the harvest commences	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Wheat	OK	\$415 - 440/tonne	Local supplies could be cheaper due to reduced freight but most is coming from out of region	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price.
Maize	Becoming Limited	\$425-450/tonne	Limited and not likely to see much change until harvest kicks off but lower than usual planting and high grain demand likely to hold price up	Price includes freight in Bulk load to Lismore/Casino. Freight distance will impact price. Not much left locally.
Wheaten or Oaten Hay	Good to Variable	\$480-530/tonne	Good quality in Large square bales, but price is rising so confirm with your supplier	Freight distance is the killer for the best quality in big squares from down south.

			local supply in round bales and a bit cheaper due to less freight but quality variable	
Rhodes Grass or Setaria hay new season cut recently	Good	\$90 x125/4x4bale	Holding,	Quality is the big variable factor, cheaper it is chances are the quality will be lower therefore may need additional supplements
Silage various options some ryegrass, oats, sorghum or millet around	Good	\$100-150/4x4bale	Holding	Quality is the point to consider and don't forget the dry matter issue, 4x4 round bales typically 45% dry matter which means 55% is water so a 500kg silage bale only has 225kg of feed in it, so calculate how much feed your buying.

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