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Ona Formulas Not Magic, But They Work

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We frequently receive questions regarding mineral mixtures marketed under "One Station Mineral" or a similar name. Generally, these mineral mixtures were developed around recommendations of the Agricultural Research and Education Center (AREC) at Ona. The various formulas may differ from one brand name to the next, and may not be exactly the same as the mineral mixture fed at the Ona AREC over the years. But, the analysis and recommended feeding level of these mixtures should be similar. It should be noted that the Ona AREC does not endorse any mineral formula, regardless of name, but we do appreciate the recognition given to the cattle production research conducted at the Ona AREC, by the use of the Ona name.

There is nothing magical about the mineral formula as long as it supplies the needed basic minerals in forms that are utilized by cattle and fed in amounts that will adequately supplement those minerals limited in the forage consumed. There are eight minerals known to be deficient in Florida forages. Phosphorus is the mineral most widely deficient, and the most costly to supplement because of the amount required. Sodium is supplied in salt and is relatively inexpensive. Trace minerals are required in small amounts and include copper, cobalt, zinc, iron, iodine, and selenium. Manganese has been used because its content in forages at Ona appears to be borderline, but a case of manganese deficiency in cattle has never been identified in Florida.

In fact, trace elements may not be deficient in many situations, but because they are required in small amounts and do not drastically increase the cost of a mineral mixture, it is good insurance to add them to a mixture. Also, borderline deficiencies of trace elements may be present which could affect production and not be readily recognized.

For informational purposes, the analysis of the "Ona Station Mineral Number 2" successfully fed to cattle at Ona AREC for the past 15 to 20 years, follows. This mineral mixture contains less than 0.18 percent fluorine and 200,000 USP units of vitamin A. It is recommended that this mineral mixture be fed at a rate of 0.1 pound per head per day to cattle grazing sandland pastures of central and south Florida. Again, we do not feel there is anything magical about this specific mineral formula, but we do feel it adequately supplies grazing cattle with the eight mineral elements known to be a problem on sandland pasture In central and south Florida.

Ona Station Mineral No. 2	
Phosphorus	12.0%
Salt	25.0%
Iron	1.0%
Copper	0.13%
Cobalt	0.03%
Zinc	0.10%
Iodine	0.04%
Selenium	0.0016%
Manganese	0.05%