

NZ Giant/ Bladder Kelp (*Macrocystis Pyrifera*)

The kelp we harvest is very rich in iodine and is a health supplement, not a feed. It is organically certified with AsureQuality, sustainably harvested from live growing kelp forests. None of it is beach cast or rotten. The kelp is wild growing and hand harvested in Akaroa Harbour and along the east coast of the south island of New Zealand. It is cool dried to retain the natural vitamins and minerals and then simply milled. The dried weight is 10% of the harvested product. It is very rich in iodine having at least five times more iodine than most kelps (levels range from 2000-3200mg/kg or 0.21 to 0.32% for Giant kelp). Smaller amounts are required compared with other seaweed meals to gain the benefits of iodine, making it cost effective as a natural source of iodine for your animals. If the iodine levels in your stock low, the animal will not be able to utilize other trace elements and food sources correctly, so it is important to give them access to kelp.

Animal Supplementation

Feeding rate approximately 200g/week/100 head cattle and 100g/week/100 sheep.

Approximate daily requirements of Giant kelp 1g/day for cattle and horses, 0.2g/day for sheep and goats

You can give the kelp to stock in a couple of ways;

1) On our 5500 SU sheep and beef farm we feed kelp and salt in separate containers. The stock can and do self-regulate. To gain the maximum benefit from iodine and trace elements in kelp the animals must also have ready access to salt.

2) Alternatively, if hand feeding use Giant kelp added to raw sea salt in a mix of 50g to 20kg (1/4%) of salt. The levels of Giant kelp required are very low because *Macrocystis pyrifera* accumulates more iodine than any other marine algae. Another mineral advantage is the level of potassium in the kelp being at 8%. The Giant Kelp kibble can be used as a feed additive with feeding rates generally 1-2 % of the feed ration for cattle but 0.25% only is required for sheep.

BENEFITS OF *Macrocystis pyrifera* supplementation.

Technical research and farmer and breeder observations indicate a variety of benefits from the consumption of kelp – all evidence of good health and productivity.

For further reading we recommend '*Natural Farming*' by Pat Coleby published by Scribe Publications in Australia.

Beef Cattle, Horses, Pigs, Sheep, Goats, Deer and Poultry

- enhancement of the immune system
- increased feed efficiency
- encouragement of regular heat cycles
- improved conception rates and increased number of healthy births
- decreased birth related complications
- reduced incidence of mastitis, retained placenta, abortions and infertility
- milk fever can generally be avoided
- increased milk yield, extends lactation periods
- combats molds in feed and helps to detoxify the body after exposure to moldy feeds.

Dairy Cows

- Increases milk butterfat levels with fewer fluctuations
- Increases iodine content in milk
- Reduces the incidence of mastitis
- Significantly reduces milk fever
- Reduces or eliminates breeding problems (e.g., reduces the number of services required for conception, increases the rate of conception)

Chickens

- Increases egg production and iodine content
- Darkens yolk and skin color
- Strengthens shells