

GUANO GOLD-DRY LICK FOR CATTLE



MCGREGOR AG SERVICES in Bingara's storeman Wayne Hutchen with the ingredients for a 10 percent urea cattle drylick.

MCGREGOR AG SERVICES at Bingara has been busy over the past 12 months formulating and manufacturing basic loose dry licks for cattle and sheep.

From the Bingara branch, the product is shipped to Warialda, Bundarra, Moree, Glen Innes, Coolatai, Barraba and Manilla.

The science behind dry lick is simple, according to McGregor Ag Services consultant agronomist and Dry Lick formulator Rob Drewitt. "We wanted to find the easiest cheapest and safest way to supply phosphorus and urea to cattle," Mr Drewitt said.

The lick is based around granulated Di calcium, phosphate (Guano Gold 12;29), zeolite, bentonite and dolomite, urea, salt and feedlot minerals. Mr Drewitt said an adequate intake for cattle would be about 150- to 200 grams/day. He said knowing the lick may become wet, he adds clays such as bentonite and zeolite to the mix.

"These help absorb dissolved urea, reducing the risk to cattle from urea poisoning," Mr Drewitt said.

"By using Madura Guano Gold - Kwik Start, the 29 percent calcium in the product allows us to remove lime stone from the mix, this combined with the use of granulated bentonites reduces the fines in the blend and therefore reduces packing."

"The mix is varied for different soil types and pasture conditions, with yellow sulphur, dolomite (grass tetney) and cottonseed meal being adjusted to suit each client's needs." "For ease of use it is packaged into 15kg bags that equal about 100 cow days each," Mr Drewitt said.