



At New Zealand Veterinary Pathology (NZVP) we understand how important your production animals are to your business. NZVP encompasses a full range of production animal testing that enables farmers to diagnose and prevent mineral deficiencies, nutritional inadequacies and production-limiting diseases.

Why check Trace Elements on your animals?

New Zealand soils are naturally deficient in cobalt, selenium and/or copper. Livestock grazing pasture grown on such soils will suffer a range of production-limiting diseases. These trace element deficiencies in New Zealand livestock have been recognised and defined since the 1930s. Production-related reference ranges for liver copper, vitamin B12 and selenium are used for the diagnosis and prevention of deficiencies. Trace Element monitoring programmes are now a routine procedure for farmers grazing cattle, sheep and deer on trace element-deficient land with the cost benefits of supplementation well established.

Copper

Copper deficiency is most common in young cattle and in-calf cows. The determination of copper status in cattle in early winter provides a valuable check on the copper reserves of herd mates prior to the increased demands of late pregnancy and lactation.

Deficiency symptoms: Diarrhoea, low production, ill-thrift, bone fractures, low fertility, etc.

Selenium

New Zealand soils are deficient in selenium, and so are the plants that grow in these soils. Selenium is one of the antioxidants that enhances immune responses and protects against toxic metabolites.

Deficiency symptoms: Ill-thrift, diarrhoea, low milk production, low conception rates and white muscle disease.

Cobalt

Cobalt deficiency is found especially in sheep and lambs, most likely in the summer and autumn seasons, so establishing the cobalt status of lambs at the time of slaughter is ideal.

Deficiency symptoms: Appetite loss, poor growth, wasting, failure to thrive and eventual death.

How can we help?

New Zealand Veterinary Pathology offers various cost-effective trace element profiles. These are designed to help you choose what suits your farm and to make the collection process straightforward.

The following profiles are available:

- Growing Cattle – Serum Fx, Serum Se, GGT, Albumin, Pepsinogen, Serum B12
- Adult Cattle – Serum Fx, Serum Se, GGT, Albumin, Magnesium, BOH
- Deer – Serum Fx, Blood Se, GGT, Albumin
- Sheep – Blood Se, GGT, Albumin
- Goats – Serum Fx, Blood Se, GGT, Albumin, Magnesium, Serum B12

If the above profiles aren't suitable we are happy to customise one specifically for your farm.

Your Veterinarian will assist you with the collection of the samples and courier them directly to New Zealand Veterinary Pathology. All results will be reported directly back to your veterinarian.

Liver Trace Element Testing

If you would like your animals tested for liver trace elements, submit your animals to the meat plant and supply the truck driver with a completed NZVP liver submission form. You can download this form from our website, www.nzvp.co.nz. Alternatively, you can phone 07 839-1470 for a submission form or ask your veterinarian for a copy.

The Asure NZ Meat inspectors will collect the liver samples on receipt of a NZ Veterinary Pathology liver submission form and courier them directly to NZ Veterinary Pathology. Depending on tests requested, they will be analysed for Copper, Selenium and Vitamin B12 and reported back to your Veterinarian.

Want to know more? Speak to your veterinarian for further information.