

Comment:

Trace element levels are satisfactory for Manganese, Zinc and Selenium but are high Iodine and very low for Copper, which is associated with a moderate Molybdenum content. This pattern of Copper and Molybdenum suggests that insufficient rumen soluble Copper (Acetate and Sulphate) is included in the diet to precipitate Molybdenum effectively. A high level of circulating Molybdenum is a potent suppressor of oestrus activity in cattle, to the detriment of fertility. High Iodine may be partly due to contamination arising from the use of Iodine based parlour chemicals and teat dips. The current analysis is similar to that of Sept '15. The key features are the fluctuating Manganese and Copper/Molybdenum values, which may be associated with a changing supplementation policy for cows at grass compared to housed cattle. Based on this analysis the supplementation of copper and iodine should be reviewed by reference to a forage mineral report to ensure it is appropriate to maintaining cow health and productivity.