

Beef trial:

This trial was done over 2005 and 2006 on a beef suckler unit where Se levels are very low. The farmer was providing Se through mineral blocks and boluses but he was still having deficiency related issues with both his cows and his sheep, i.e. retained placentas, infertility, still births, poor LWG, etc. We selected 6 cows at random and the same cows were blood tested over the two year period. During this time they didn't receive any other form of Se supplementation. So the hypothesis of the trial was: can we supply sufficient Se for suckler cows from Selcote Ultra alone?

As you can see from the graphs for 2005 and 2006, applying Selcote Ultra (@ 1 kg/ha = 10g Se/ha = 4 x bags/ac of Selenigrass and/or Selenistart) was sufficient to maintain Se pasture levels above optimum throughout the growing season. This in turn, provided enough Se to maintain optimal levels in the animals throughout the season.

Since the trial this farmer now uses Se as standard across all his grazing ground and he also applies it to his silage so that his cattle receive adequate Se in their base diet through the housed period.

