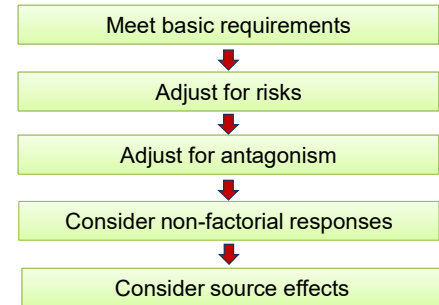


Trace minerals requirements for dairy cows
A practical guide for dairy nutritionists

Bill Weiss

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Diet formulation for TM



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NASEM Mineral Report

This is the start

Item	Diet Density mg/kg	Req Density mg/kg	Absorb Req (TAR) mg/d	Diff TAS- TAR mg/d
Micro Mineral				
Co	0.00	0.20	5	-5
Cr	0.16	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cu	7.10	8.95	12	-2
Fe	151.56	17.74	47	351
I	0.00	0.43	11	-11
Mn	31.06	30.03	3	0
Se	0.17	0.30	8	-3
Zn	37.07	59.71	314	-119

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Why you should not supplement Fe

1. NASEM Adequate intake (reqt): 15 to 20 mg/kg
 - Typical diets: >50 mg/kg
2. Two studies with dairy (+30 mg/kg organic Fe)
 - One study: no effect
 - One study: substantial negative effects

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NASEM Requirement System

$$\text{Diet Req} = \frac{\text{Maint} + \text{Milk} + \text{Growth} + \text{Fetal}}{\text{Absorption Coefficient}}$$

mg/d

Is this appropriate for TM ?



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Invited review: Limitations to current mineral requirement systems for cattle and potential improvements

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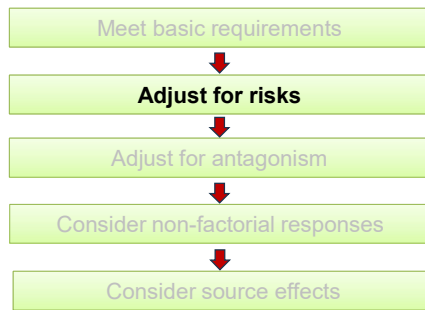
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Concerns with NASEM TM Factorial System

1. Ignores potential concentration effects
 - Absorption
 - Potential effects on rumen and intestinal microbiome
2. Very limited AC data
3. Some requirements may be circular
 - Milk concentration can increase with increased TM
 - Maintenance may increase with increased TM

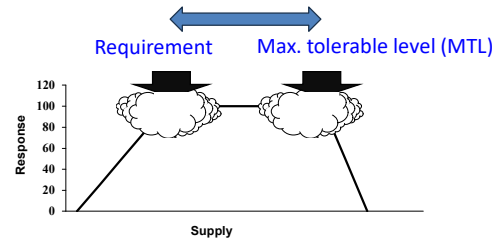
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Diet formulation for TM



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If you ↓ risk of deficiency, ↑ risk of 'toxicity' and vice versa



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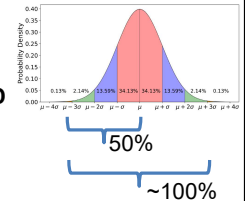
Sources of 'risk'

1. Variability of diet composition
2. Variability of requirements within a pen
3. Accuracy of requirement equations
4. Accuracy of absorption coefficients
5. Toxicity risk
6. Cost

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1 'Standard' safety factor

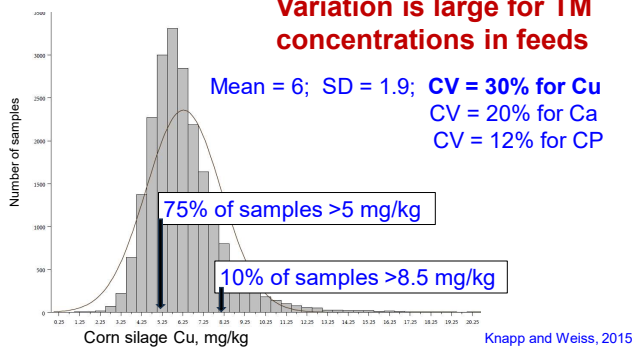
- Req't meet needs of 50% of population
- With normal distributions; Mean + 2 SD = 98% of population
- Assuming BMR = variation in mineral reqt: Mean X 1.2 = 98% of population



For many minerals: ~1.2 X NASEM requirement will meet requirements of ~100% of animals in a pen

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Variation is large for TM concentrations in feeds



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Should forage TM be discounted to mitigate risk ?

Forages have extremely high SD for TM

High variation is not a reason to enter 0 for feed minerals

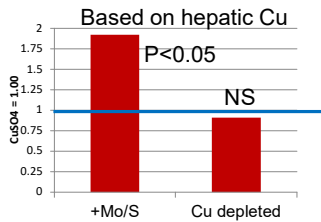
- Much of the variation is sampling
- SD are inflated because of long tails
- Use data from multiple samples
- Book values for TM often better than sample value

Entering 0 is usually more wrong than using the mean

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Relative availability has limitations

Hydroxy Cu chloride vs. Cu sulfate (with steers)



Spears et al., 2004

Everything is relative!

If CuSul AC = 0.05 is HyCu = ~0.10 ?
or
is CuSulf = 0.025 and HyCu = 0.05 ?

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Should AC be adjusted for relative availability?

In my humble opinion, NO

1. Experimental conditions limit extrapolation
2. Concentration can affect AC and other things
3. Questionable or no RA data for many TM

Diets with 'specialty TM' vs. sulfate TM

1. Keep total diet concentrations about the same
2. Maybe reduce the safety factor/ antagonism adjustment

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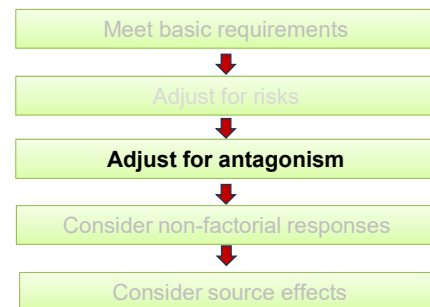
3 Toxicity risk and severity



- Cu: High
- Mn: Very low
- Se: Moderate to high (only specific forms)
- Zn: Low to moderate

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Diet formulation for TM and vitamins



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Many metals share intestinal transport mechanisms

Excessively high concentrations of can antagonize others

- Fe and Mn
- Cu and Zn
- Fe and Cu
- Etc.

Keep dietary concentrations of TM reasonable!

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Sulfur (sulfate) antagonizes Cu, Mn, Zn, and Se

1. Mostly (all?) occurs within rumen
2. Mode of action not understood but probably via sulfide production (insoluble, binds metals)
3. Diet S (including water) > 0.25% may antagonize

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Remember Water



Water with 250 mg/L **Sulfate-S**

= +0.1% dietary S

Water with 700 mg/L **Sulfate-S**

= +0.3% dietary S

Sulfate-S = Sulfate*0.33

Take water samples occasionally

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Weiss adjustments for high S: Supplemental minerals from sulfates

- Suggested additional adjustments to **Cu, Mn, Zn** for high S (Includes the 1.2 X adjustment for variability)

≤0.2% S: 1.2X

0.3% S: 1.4X

0.4% S: 1.5X

0.5% S: 1.6X

Include the S in water

If also > ~3 ppm Mo: Add 0.2 to above values for **Cu**

Almost all diets: Cu: 13 to 20 mg/kg total diet

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Diet formulation for TM and vitamins

Meet basic requirements



Adjust for risks



Adjust for antagonism



Consider non-factorial responses



Consider source effects

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Do minerals have to be absorbed to affect cow ?

Mineral requirements:

- Maintains body stores
- Supports productive functions
 - growth
 - lactation
 - reproduction
- Support immunity and health
- GI function/ nutrient digestion

Absorbed ?

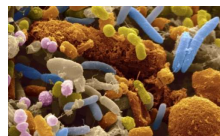


Yes and no

Yes and no

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Source of TM affect ruminal/intestinal microbiome



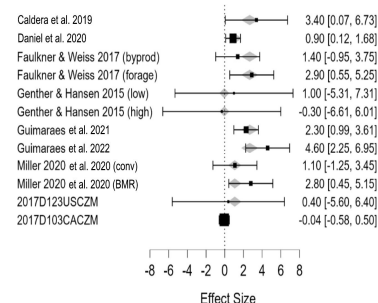
Compared with sulfates

- Organic Zn reduced the pathogen associated with digital dermatitis in feces (Faulkner et al., 2017)
- Hydroxy Zn reduced the pathogen in feces (Wenner et al., 2022)

Probably a concentration effect not a mg/d effect

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Hydroxy vs sulfate: NDF Digestibility



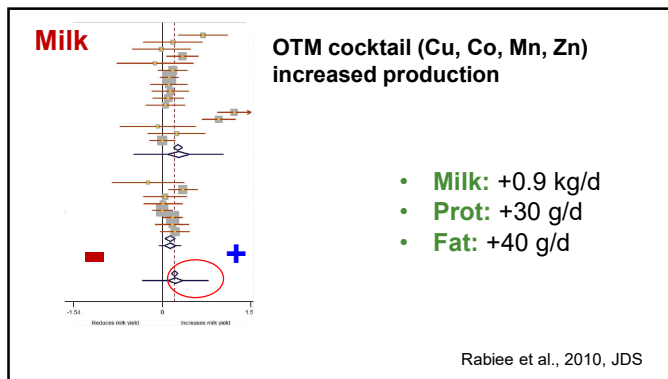
Meta-analysis

Ibraheem et al., 2023

+1.5% units
(P < 0.02)

NEL in about 1 lb of milk

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Recommendations

Use high quality alternatives to sulfates and chlorides

- Increased diet energy
- Potentially enhanced immune function/health

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Recommendations:

Selenium (0.3 mg/kg)

Only question is source:

- Lactating: Majority from selenite (or selenate) is usually fine
- Lactating with high S diets: Mix of selenite:(yeast or Se-met)
- Dry and prefresh: Majority (not all) from yeast or Se-met

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Use standard safety factor (1.2X) for Zinc

- Low to modest toxicity risk
- Low uncertainty

Total Diet!

- **NASEM**
 - Lactating: ~ 60 mg/kg
 - Dry: ~30 mg/kg
- **Formulation goals**
 - Lactating: 70 to 80 mg/kg
 - Dry: ~ 40 mg/kg

Adjust for high S

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Use standard safety factor (1.2X) for copper

- High toxicity risk
- Moderate uncertainty
- High antagonism risk

Total Diet!

- **NASEM**
 - Lactating: ~ 10 mg/kg
 - Dry: ~15 mg/kg
- **Formulation goals**
 - Lactating: 12 mg/kg
 - Dry: ~ 18 mg/kg

Adjust for high S and Mo

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Manganese needs greater SF

Low toxicity risk **Suggest: ~2X NASEM**
High uncertainty

- **NASEM:**
 - Lactating: ~30 mg/kg
 - Dry: ~40 mg/kg
- **Formulation goals**
 - Lactating: ~ 60 mg/kg
 - Dry: ~80 mg/kg

Total Diet!

Adjust for elevated S

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Summary

A profound conclusion:
Feed enough but not too much!

- Current estimates are mostly close to correct
 - Feed **modest** excess to ensure adequacy
 - Base safety factor on variability, antagonism, accuracy, and toxicity risk
- TM source effects are more, probably a lot more, than just increased absorption

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