

# Metabolic Diseases

When there is an imbalance of nutrients or trace elements in the diet of cattle, there is the possibility that metabolic diseases may occur. These diseases are caused by an imbalance in the metabolism of cattle. A variety of metabolic diseases may occur on any property so both graziers and workers must be aware of what these diseases are, the symptoms beasts will display and how the diseases may be prevented and/ or treated.

Some of the more common metabolic diseases are listed in the table below.

Remember, that the best advice about any herd health issues is generally found with local cattle authorities, consultants and other property owners.

<b>Metabolic disease</b>	<b>Effect(s) on cattle</b>	<b>Probable cause(s)</b>	<b>Preventive treatment</b>
<b>Grass tetany</b> (Hypo-magnesaemia)	Causes spasms leading to death. Death may occur within minutes of onset.	Imbalance of magnesium levels - low levels of magnesium intake associated with stress in the animal.	Grazing a balanced pasture of grasses and clover. Daily supplements of magnesium.
<b>Milk fever</b> (Hypo-calcaemia)	Affects pregnant or recently calved cows, causing weakness; cows go down and may die if not treated.	Low calcium levels in the blood due to nutritional demands of late pregnancy.	If this disease is a problem on your property, find out how to treat it from your vet.