Mineral Oil, a lubricant, Impaction treatment and dust suppressant

ITEM A

Synthetic substances allowed for use in organic livestock production

ITEM B

1. The substance's common name.

Mineral Oil. Common trade names include

3. The intended or current use of the substance such as use as a pesticide, animal feed additive, processing aid, nonagricultural ingredient, sanitizer or disinfectant.

Livestock medical treatment Feed Supplement

4. A list of the crop, livestock or handling activities for which the substance will be used. If used for crops or livestock, the substance's rate and method of application must be described. If used for handling (including processing), the substance's mode of action must be described.

Used as an oral drench as treatment for impaction and diarrhea.

Added to livestock vitamin/mineral supplement blends as a dust suppressant.

12. A ``Petition Justification Statement'' which provides justification for one of the following actions requested in the petition:

INTERNAL LUBRICANT:

In the case of "omasal impaction", the ruminant's third stomach (omasum) essentially becomes bound up, compacted, resulting in excruciating pain for the animal. The mineral oil is applied as a "drench", at the rate of 1-2 gallons every 12 hours until the viscous nature of the mineral oil lubricates the impaction. Failure to treat often leads to the need for surgery. For this particular herd health problem, there is no substitute to mineral oil. Another (seemingly counter-intuitive)use for Mineral Oil is in diarrhea where it acts to line the gut so toxins are not re-absorbed as well as quelling the excessive fermentation and putrefaction occurring in the duodenum, jejunum and ileum.

Another ailment which inflicts baby calves is called "retained mecomium, whereby the calf's first manure is blocked and the animal is unable to excrete normally. Again, the mineral oil serves as an internal lubricant in conjunction with administering an enema to unblock the digestive obstruction.

DUST CONTROL:

Used as a dust control agent in the formulation of vitamin/mineral supplements for livestock production. Also, considered a flowability material to enhance the uniform distribution of nutrients of extremely small inclusion (vitamins, trace minerals). Mineral oil is considered to be irreplaceable in its function. Vegetable oil sources are known to oxidize vitamins and lead to rancidity. The inclusion of mineral oil also serves the function of enhancing the intake of vitamin/mineral supplements. The primary concern in potentially losing this material is the respiratory aggravation facing the livestock and the human participants in the manufacturing and/or feeding and reduced intake of essential nutrients.

The literal inclusion of mineral oil in the above mentioned function is typically less than 2% of the total batch of mineral. Therefore, less than 40# per ton. However, 1% is the standard. The finished product, the

vitamin/mineral supplement for a lactating dairy animal, is often fed at the rate of .5 lb. per day, contributing less than .2% ounce to the cow's daily diet.