

Topic/Title (Norwegian)

Saltstein til sau – effekt på beiteutnyttelse og beiteatferd

Topic/Title (English)

Salt blocks - effects on pasture and area use in sheep

**Summary**

In recent decades, we have seen a sharp increase in the use of salt blocks in the Norwegian grazing industry. Salt blocks are today seen as a central tool for managing grazing by sheep on pastures. In addition to providing dietary needs for minerals the saltlick feeders facilitate efficient pasture use and ease herding of free-roaming sheep. However, the effects on the animals' grazing behavior and pasture use are not documented. Further, salt block sites lead to local gatherings of grazing animals, and that they are used by a long range of wild species. Thus these places can act as "hotspots" for infection transmission both within and between species.

Based on positional data (high-quality GPS data) of sheep and salt blocks from selected grazing areas the effect of salt block distribution and density on the area use and grazing behavior of sheep will be investigated. The work will be in close collaboration with Geir Rune Rauset, NINA.

Subject area

Grazing ecology, sheep, salt blocks

Language thesis (Norwegian and/or English)

Norwegian or English

Bachelor or Master thesis

Master thesis

Credits

30/60

Please contact

Øystein Holand, Biovit, Room H262, Email: oystein.holand@nmbu.no