

ZURICH FARM INSURANCE
FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2016
 Irish Independent



Congratulations to 3 of our customers on their excellent achievements at the Zurich farmer of the year awards.

The Zurich Farm Insurance Farming Independent Farmer of the Year Awards are all about recognising and rewarding the very best in Irish Farming.

Tim & Liz Mannion are among the top 3 of the Dairy farmer section this year. This is an incredible achievement and all you have to do is visit their farm to see what can only be described as a world class operation.

Ken & Richard Mathews were the overall winners in the sheep section, this is no surprise as they are experts at their job and really pave the way in sheep production in Ireland. Everything they do from beginning to end is top class.

Kieran Phelan had tremendous success as he won the farm safety section. Kieran must be really complimented for taking such an active role and leading the way on the critical area of farm safety.

This is an area we sometimes neglect until unfortunatley something happens.

Well done to all 3!!

The Ultimate in Mineral Buckets!!



4 way sheep



20kg mollassed Mineral & Vitamin block.

For all lambs, shearlings, ewes, rams & particularly for sheep grazing on areas where there is a known mineral deficiency.

- Contains hi levels of all essential mins and vits.
- Contains maximum permitted levels of Zinc.
- Contains 4 different forms of zinc.
- Contains high levels of cobalt and selenium.

Recommended feeding rate:

Ewes (75kg LW) 25-30g per day.

Lambs (30kg LW) 10-12g per day.

Precautions:

Contains high levels of selenium. Care should be exercised in known high selenium areas.



4 Way Copper Bucket.



Classical symptom of Calf with Copper deficiency

20kg Mineral & Vitamin block

For calves, weanlings, beef cattle & cows, but particularly suitable for livestock grazing on high molybdenum/ high pH/low copper/peaty soils.

- Contains high levels of all essential mins & vits
- Contains maximum permitted levels of copper
- Contains 4 different forms of copper including 40% protected.

Recommended feeding rate:

20grams per 100kg liveweight per day (Do not exceed 25grams per 100kg per day.)

Precautions:

Contains hi levels of copper, do not feed to equines or sheep.

We are also stocking Garlic licks which can be very beneficial at keeping flies away from stock during peak months like July.



Many have had disappointing 1st cut yields and this is understandable as we had very poor growth up to mid-May. 2nd cuts will be very common this year but its important that there fertilized properly in order to make up the deficit from 1st cut yield.

2nd cuts require the following:

Nitrogen: 8ounits/acre

Phosphorus (between Index 1 & 3) 16units

Potash: (For index 1, as most silage fields are at this index) 56units

Along with slurry products like 21-2.2-10, 24-2.2-4.5 & 22-2.2-5+s are ideal choices. These blends are also perfect to produce good after grass for grazing.

Crops:



Luckily the recent spell of weather from mid-May on has really transformed crops.

Wn barley: has filled up well but doesn't appear to have the yield potential of 2015. It has stayed very clean since its T1 application. It appears to have an extra long head this year which may compensate for some thin crops.

Wn Wheat: Bumper looking crops this year, but as we write on June 8th, it now needs rain as plants are becoming brittle. Has remained very clean all year. Needs to get its head spray asap. Various different mixes work as a head spray, with products like, gleam, prosaro and amistar opti are the norm.

The long dry spell can often follow with an outbreak of aphids which can be harmful to wheat, so include a systemic aphidicide containing dimethioate at final spray timing.

Sp. Barley: Crops sown up to mid April have progressed into good full-lush crops with many approaching awn emergence. Later sown have suffered from the intense heat in early June as they hadn't the ground fully covered. BYDV (Barley yellow dwarf virus) has appeared in every field despite aphicides been applied. Irina appears to be the worst hit. Despite the obvious, the severity of the virus is very low and it has only effected a very small amount of leaves and therefore should have little or no impact on yield. Barley colour has remained pale since sown because late frost kept stunting it and now it's suffering from moisture deficit meaning deficiencies have appeared due to stressed plants. It is important to treat deficiencies as they appear or as per field history. Manganese deficiency has been most common this year but is easily corrected with a spray of Wolftrax Manganese. Almost all barley should have received its T1 spray at this stage. T2 should be a good robust rate as it has to last for up to 8 weeks. Product of choice for T2 would be Cerias as it contains excellent chemistry with straw strengthening characteristics + a colour enhancer. Barley gold is still available and works very well. (Doesn't come in a pack anymore, instead deuce and diamant come in 5lt cans which combined, do 17acres.) Always include bravo in final spray as it improves the persistence of a fungicide and is critical for ramularia control.

Roundup:

You will all have seen in the papers at this stage that the licence for roundup use in Europe is at risk of been revoked. This would be a disaster for Irish farming as it's an essential chemical. Since the introduction of roundup it has always been a very safe chemical. It neutralizes when it hits the soil and it has never been in any way pollutant to our waterways or has it remained as residues in herbage.

Agriculture at present is experiencing enough hardship with extremely low farm-gate prices and loss of round-up would be a major blow. For this reason it is up to each and every one of you to lobby everyone you know in a position to help fight for its survival. Farmers are the ones that maintain the countryside and roundup is all you have as a total weedkiller.

Worming Milking Cows:

New!! Dose with precision using Eprecis 2%

The first Eprinomectin Injection

Zero withdrawal in milk

Eprecis is a small single dose application for the control of common parasites in dairy cows.

Broad spectrum cover, treating infestations by internal and external parasites sensitive to eprinomectin including:

- Gastrointestinal roundworms
- Roundworms & Lungworms
- Sucking lice
- Horn flies
- Warbles
- Mange mites

✓ Fast Acting: The maximum mean plasma concentration is reached before day 2

post injection compared to day 4 post application of a pour-on.

✓ Use in all weather conditions: Treatment can be used in all weather conditions and does not rely on absorption through the skin.

✓ Zero milk withhold period: Eprecis is licensed to be used at any time during lactation.



Financial Period End:

Yet again, we are almost at the end of another financial period. Each year at this time we make a special appeal to you our customer to clear your account or at least make a substantial payment towards it. Many thanks for your co-operation, effort and continued support.

