



# NUGGET

Always the best

J GRENNAN & SONS

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**FREE**

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2018

### Free Colostrum Quality Testing now available in Our Branches

- Colostrum quality testing within minutes!
- Ensure your calf is getting the best possible start in life by feeding good quality colostrum
- It is critically important calves receive good quality colostrum within 2 hours of birth.
- Colostrum quality is defined by the concentration of antibodies present. This can vary between cows so testing will identify good/poor quality colostrum.



#### To avail of this service all you have to do is:

Bring a small sample (50ml) of colostrum into one of our participating branches (Rath, Tinnycross, Moate, Moyvore). Within minutes, we will tell you if the colostrum is of good or poor quality.

### Winter Cereals

By Paul Mooney B.Agr.Sc

Winter cereals have been sown in good conditions & ideal seedbeds. Crops are looking very well at present. Most crops were rolled and have received their weed sprays. Be vigilant for slugs even though they are not active at present, they could create issues if wet & mild conditions develop.

- **Winter Barley:** The majority of seed was treated with Redigo deter which means approx. 6 weeks protection from BYDV after sowing. Most crops were sown from the beginning of October onwards which will leave the earliest sowing due an aphicide mid-November.
- **Wheat and Oats,** early October sown crops without Redigo Deter seed dressing will need an aphicide at the 2-4 leaf stage.
- **Beans:** The drought this year resulted in poor yields of beans. This means that Bean seed will be scarce next spring. **If you intend sowing beans in 2019, let us know asap so we can secure seed.**

### The Dry Period – Opportunity knocks!

By Tim Guinan B.Agr.Sc

The Dry period is an extremely important period in the Dairy Cow's calendar, because her husbandry & nutrition during these 6-8 weeks can have massive implications for her health & productivity, not just in the next lactation, but for several lactations into the future.

There are several key features to an effective dry period for cows, but the following points are critical;

1. Firstly, every cow, irrespective of her age, breed, type, or yield potential, deserves a dry period of AT LEAST 8 weeks. She will simply be a lot more productive in the long term if she gets this chance to recuperate at the end of EVERY lactation.
2. Aim to achieve a BCS of 3-3.25 at calving. This will involve grouping cows at drying off time, according to their BCS & designing their diet to deliver the weight gain or loss required to deliver the 3-3.25 at calving.
3. The mineral status of the dry cow's diet, in particular its Cation Anion Balance (CAB) is absolutely CRITICAL, particularly in the last 3 to 4 weeks before calving. This can only be accurately assessed on the basis of a forage mineral analysis. This costs approx. €45 per sample, but it's probably the best €45 you will spend all year.
4. Use the dry period to boost the Cows Immune System in preparation for calving & the early post calving period.

**We now have new ways to enable you use your cows pre-calving diet to greatly enhance White Blood Cell mobility & effectiveness.**

Optimal White Blood Cell activity at calving time is now known to be the key driver of prompt & complete discharge of the afterbirth. It is also crucially important for quickly eradicating the uterine infections that 95% of all cows get after calving. These in turn has massive positive implications for early lactation appetite, her dry matter intake & her overall energy balance in those critical 8 -10 weeks after calving...a time when many cows are on the edge. In reality, all things are connected, so we are by no means exaggerating when we say that, an enhanced Immune System opens up the opportunity for higher milk solids, much reduced SCCs, improved fertility & greater longevity in the herd.

**Contact us today for more detailed information.**

## Liver Fluke in Sheep

By Damien Conboy B.Agr.Sc

During autumn and winter all stages of fluke are present. Ideally a treatment will kill the early maturing fluke which are the primary cause of acute fluke deaths.

- **Acute fluke** occurs when large numbers of immature fluke burrow through the liver, causing sudden death.
- **Chronic fluke** occurs due to long-term exposure to infective larvae. Fluke develop in the liver & bile ducts causing damage to the liver.

Signs of chronic fluke include anaemia & loss of condition. Paleness around the eyes & gums may also indicate the presence of liver fluke.

### Treatment:

- Flukicides are divided into 6 groups according to their active ingredient. Triclabendazoles are the only group that act against early immature fluke. However, cases of resistance have been found to these products. Closantel, Nitroxynil, and Rafoxanide are also active against immature fluke over 6 weeks old.
- Products containing Oxyclozanide and Albendazole are only active against adult fluke.

Product choice should be based on the type of infection & the stage of fluke. For advice on animal health or to establish a dosing plan which best suits your flock, contact a member of our technical team.

## Management of Forage Brassicas

By Paul Mooney B.Agr.Sc

Brassicas tend to be most suited to grazing weanlings in situ, but there are other options available. The energy content of leafy brassicas is similar to that of concentrates. Brassicas contain highly digestible carbohydrate & are low in fibre, hence it is critical to provide a fibre source to prevent rumen disorders.

Despite mature brassicas having a low DM (approx. 12% DM), animals will still require constant access to fresh water. Out-wintered cattle will have a higher energy requirement, requiring approx. 3% of their bodyweight to be allocated in daily dry matter intake.

### Grazing Management:

- **Introduce animals to brassicas slowly**
- **Brassicas should form max 70% of the diet**, with 30% coming from a fibre source like silage, straw or hay.
- **Brassicas are low in essential minerals** like iodine, selenium & copper.
- Nugget 4 Way Copper buckets will supply all essential mineral lacking in Brassicas (see Below).
- Always ensure constant **access to fresh water**
- Crops sown in GLAS scheme, grazing is not permitted until after 1<sup>st</sup> December
- Only give animals enough fodder crop for 1 day at a time to avoid gorging and trampling of the crop.



## 4 Way Copper

20kg Mollassed Mineral & Vitamin Block.

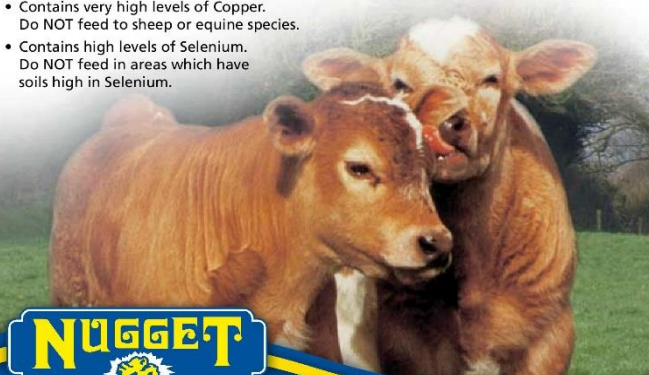
For all Calves, Weanlings, Beef Cattle and Cows, but particularly suitable for livestock grazing on High Molybdenum / High pH / Low Copper / Peaty Soils.

- Contains high levels of all essential minerals and vitamins.
- Contains maximum permitted levels of Copper.
- Contains 4 different forms of Copper.
- Contains 40% Protected Copper.

**Recommended feeding rate:**  
20 grams per 100 kgs liveweight per day. Do not exceed 25 grams per 100 kgs liveweight per day. It should be introduced as soon as stock go to grass.

### Warnings:

- Contains very high levels of Copper. Do NOT feed to sheep or equine species.
- Contains high levels of Selenium. Do NOT feed in areas which have soils high in Selenium.



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## NUGGET 4 Way Copper Buckets - Forage Brassicas

Always the best  
By Conor Condron B.Agr.Sc

The brassica crops are particularly deficient in copper, iodine and selenium. Nugget 4 Way Copper buckets contain high levels of all essential minerals & vitamins

- Ideally suited to complement grazing forage brassicas
- Contains 350mg/kg of Iodine which will make up for the low Iodine levels in Forage Brassicas.
- Contains adequate levels of manganese, zinc & cobalt which are also in short supply in brassicas
- Copper availability is a major issue with Brassicas as the high Sulphur content can make Copper unavailable to the animal. Nugget 4 Way Copper buckets contain maximum permitted levels of Copper which combats this shortfall.



**NEW!**

## 14% Everyday Stud Cubes

**NEW!**

- This pellet provides a stud feed that is high in protein quality.
- Contains a mineral package ideal for growth and development.
- Highly palatable pellet formulated for Brood Mares, Young Stock & Store Horses.
- An ideal horse & pony feed to compliment quality forages during the winter period.
- Contains Yeassac to help maintain a healthy hindgut.

To ensure a timely delivery please place your order 4-5 days in advance.

Thank you!