

Weanlings – Why & What to feed this Autumn??



There are 2 basic rules of that need to be kept in mind:

1. Younger animals are more efficient at converting feed into growth. A calf has a much higher feed conversion efficiency (FCE) than a weanling. A weanling has a much higher FCE than a 2yr old.
2. The heavier the animal the greater its maintenance energy requirement (& cost) will be. Maintenance energy requirements will always be met first, so it is ONLY the excess energy supplied, that will be diverted into production / Liveweight gain etc. Typically, 75 - 80% of the daily energy intake of beef animals goes towards maintenance, so it is down to the last 20 - 25% to deliver all the added value.

Consistently maximising daily energy intake is vital to achieving optimum thrive & added value. Energy intake is primarily driven by daily dry matter intake. 0.6kg per day of liveweight gain is the minimum you need to target for weanlings.

The quality of concentrates is vital, because it has to add to the overall daily energy intake of the animal. It needs to be;

- High in starch – ie contain high levels of Cereals, Maize & Field Beans - These are the top 3 ingredients in  **Super Weanling Crunch**. (Have a look at the label)
- Properly balanced with Protein & Digestible fibre. There is no point in the concentrate feed simply displacing grass in the diet- it needs to drive up overall intakes to maximise the amount of energy you can get into the animal.
-  **Super Weanling Crunch** contains ingredients such as Beet Pulp & Distillers to ensure that rumen health & overall appetite are at their best, so consistently high DM intakes are assured.

- Formulated to deliver optimal levels of all essential minerals, vitamins & live yeast to cattle on grazed grass or grass silage based diets.  **Super Weanling Crunch** has been a market leader for years because it works. Nothing has been left to chance in terms of giving your weanlings all they need to deliver top performance.
- Super Weanling Crunch is also available with lungbooster added as an option. Lungbooster is a cost-effective support for animals in the fight against pneumonia, for use in a preventative manner.

Lungbooster is multi-pronged in its approach:

- Facilitates easy breathing
- Natural antibacterial effect
- Stimulates animals immunity
- Supports immune system with natural vit. E
- Increases mucus secretion to remove pathogens – this may result in increased mucus secretion for the first few days, but this will dry up by day five of the course.

Feeding levels of 1kg per 100kg of liveweight per head per day for 10-14 days.

Note: While using lung booster animals will exhibit runny noses for up to 7 days due to the removal of the bacteria causing mucous from the nasal passages, but this is nothing to be alarmed by unless it keeps up.

Lungbooster is also available on its own to sprinkle on top of feed under the name Pulmosure. It is available in a 7kg bucket which is sufficient for 18 x 300kg animals for 10day course.

Sheep: Preparation for the mating season

Ewes have been weaned for quite some time now and at this stage they should be gaining body condition. The **target BCS** at mating is **3.25-3.5**. Ewes should be grouped according to BCS and grazed accordingly. The thinner ewes need the best grass swards available to gain sufficient condition while the heavier ewes can be let graze down tighter grass covers to prevent the risk of becoming too fat.

This is also a critical time to correct any deficiencies or imbalances of minerals, vitamins and trace elements. This can be achieved by using mineral drenches or boluses. The main Trace elements & Vitamins we are concerned about pre-mating are; Vitamin E, Cobalt, Selenium, Iodine, Zinc and Copper in some cases.

Congratulations to all our customers who won prizes at this Years National Livestock show in Tullamore.

Tommy & Pauline Fitzgerald from Clonaslee won in Class 208, which was the overall Belgium Blue Champion & also in Class 207, which was the overall best male Belgium Blue Champion.

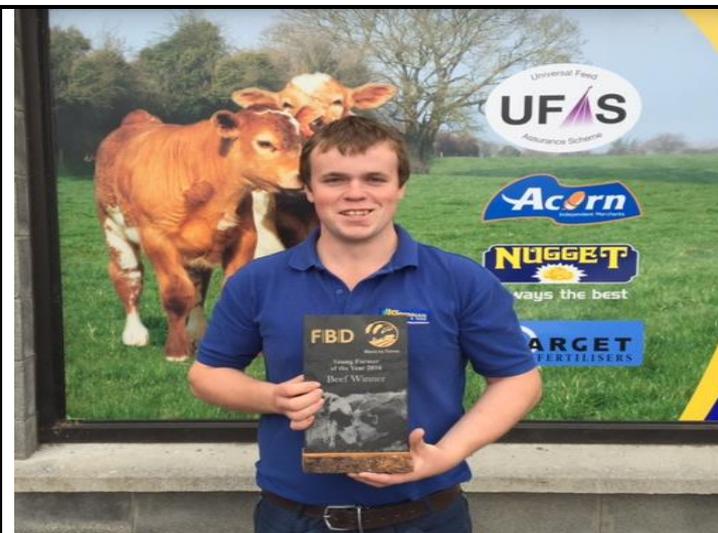


Pictured above is Michael Burke (Grennans), Tommy Fitzgerald & John Grennan.

Martin Mooney from ShannonHarbour who also works with us, won in Class 116, which was the National Senior Simmental heifer.



The heifer has been entered into 8 shows so far this year with a tremendous list of achievements from each show, (All of huge credit to Martin.)
 Athlone: 1st in Senior heifer class & Reserve breed Champion
 Longford: 1st in Senior heifer class & Breed Champion.
 Ossary: 1st in Senior Heifer, Reserve Breed Champion & Reserve South East female of the year.
 Claremorris: 3rd in All Ireland Pedigree suckler Interbreed Heifer.
 Tullamore: All Ireland Senior Heifer Champion.
 Cappamore: 1st in senior Heifer & Breed Champion.
 Limerick: 1st in senior Heifer & Breed Champion.
 Royal Meath Show: 1st in Senior Heifer, 1st in In-calf Heifer & Breed Champion.



Congratulations to Michael Kenny Leamore who also works with us and has won The Macra All Ireland Young Beef Farmer of the year & the 2nd overall farmer of the year.
 This is a magnificent achievement & well done.

Harvest Progress:

Winter barley yields were a big disappointment, so what happened to the extra tonne of wn barley we had grown accustomed to getting??

The extremely warm autumn, followed by one of the wettest winters on record, followed by a cold wet spring created the perfect storm for barley to go wrong. Winter barley cannot tolerate warm Autumns as they become too advanced and create too much soft growth for aphids to infect with BYDV and disease to thrive. Barley is the opposite to wheat in wet conditions as tillers will die and roots decay. After the wet winter it was critical that we got a pleasant warm-growthy spring to aid recovery but this never really happened until it was too late and yield was lost. There was also widespread take-all in wn barley crops this year due to unusual climatic conditions over the winter period

and because of incorrect rotation that we have been getting away with for years. Take-all is a fungal disease of cereal roots. Almost all winter barley is been placed in a take all situation which robbed at least 0.5tonne of the yield in crops this year. Wn barley or wheat can be sown for 2 years after breaking grass or 1 year after a break crop (oats considered a break crop). After this you enter a take all situation when the disease rises in severity up to year 5 of cereals. You then have take-all decline. It could be year 10 before you will be take all free and it's important to keep this in mind. Latitude dressing helps with wheat but it net worth on barley is debatable.

Winter wheat yields may well have broken all records locally this year as it yielded very well with an abundance of big quality bold grain.

Spring barley to date has surprised us as the crops have yielded better than expected. Straw yield from most crops appear to be back 10% but luckily the rise in straw price has compensated.