



**Lets hope 2017 will be both a happy, profitable and safe year for all concerned in Agriculture.**

**REMEMBER!!**

**(THINK SAFETY-FARM SAFELY)**

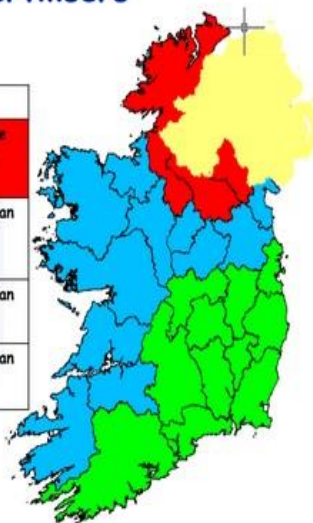
**Early Grass:**

Grass is our cheapest form of feed for ruminants. Big savings can be achieved from having it early in the year as it reduces reliance on expensive winter feed and therefore improves profit margin. The general recommendation to achieve early grass is to apply 27units of nitrogen in late January and return 5 weeks later with a 2<sup>nd</sup> split.



**Prohibited application periods for fertilisers**

Fertiliser type	Start date	Prohibited application period		
		Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
Chemical	15 Sept to	12 Jan	15 Jan	31 Jan
Organic	15 Oct to	12 Jan	15 Jan	31 Jan
Farmyard Manure	1 Nov to	12 Jan	15 Jan	31 Jan



**Pre-Lambing Nutrition:**



Offering ewes the correct plane of nutrition during mid and late pregnancy ensures adequate supply of colostrum post lambing and produces lambs close to optimum birth weight, consequently reducing mortality and increasing flock performance and profitability.

In the last 7 weeks of pregnancy 75% of foetal growth occurs. A ewe carrying two lambs with an expected lamb birth weight of 5kg each will see her energy requirements almost double from seven weeks pre-lambing to lambing time. In the last 3 to 4 weeks of pregnancy the ewe's protein requirements will also nearly double. For the last 3 weeks of pregnancy the ewe's protein requirement will rise to 200g per day to meet the demands of the rapidly growing foetus.

The level of concentrate feeding required depends on the following:

Size of the ewe, Body Condition, Roughage quality (DMD, Chop length and intake characteristics) and litter size are the major factors affecting the concentrate supplementation required by ewes in late pregnancy.

The higher the DMD and the shorter the chop length of silage, the higher the intake of the ewe. Ewes on these silages require less concentrates. Concentrate supplementation per ewe can be reduced by 5kg for ewes carrying singles than those carrying twins, while ewes carrying triplets should receive an extra 8kg of concentrates. Once concentrate feeding level goes above 500g/day, consider splitting the feed. This will reduce the risk of digestive upset such as acidosis and stimulate silage intake.

***Purchase Rations/Cubes on the basis of ingredient content + quality and not on price alone.***



**Always the Best**

## Tillage 2017

Indications for 2017 currently suggest there may be no rise in grain price meaning growers must act smart and plan carefully for the coming growing season. Do your costings based on the inputs for spring barley costing approx. €200 per acre and bean inputs at approx. €180. The usual areas like land rent and under-performing fields must be addressed. Would the value of 1tonne of grain be a fair price for land rent?? If a field is not capable of producing at least 3tonne of spring barley per acre it could easily lose money. It should be everyone's aim to do what you done last year, better this year in order to end up with a better result. Through some simple adjustments that cost nothing like getting spray timings correct can have big impact on yield. Areas like hand rogueing wild oats before they become unmanageable can save you €15-20/acre. Yet again this spring, beans appear to be the most profitable combinable crop due to the protein subsidy. For both the benefit to land and guaranteed subsidy, growers should consider the crop.



Most bean seed is imported and therefore stocks are always tight so please order bean seed asap. If possible be finished sowing beans by end of February. Heavy soils with a p.H of 6.5 + are best.



## Now stocking the Heatwave Milk Warmers in our stores.

[www.heatwavemilkwarmer.com](http://www.heatwavemilkwarmer.com)

- Feeds up to 30calves or 50lambs per unit.
- Suitable for milk powder or whole milk feeding.
- Hygienic as milk is stored cold
- Thermostatically controlled.
- Facilitates accelerated milk feeding which converts milk into weight-gain at a much faster rate than normal in a labour saving manner.


## Special promotion on your first new purchase of a 20kg pack of Reviva (enough for 20 cows) so call us now for details!



Calving is a stressful time for cows, losing fluid, essential minerals and vitamins before commencing colostrum and milk production. This all happens in the space of only a few hours. 'Reviva' from Farm-O-San, the specialist health products division of market leaders Trouw Nutrition, helps to rehydrate the cow, replaces those lost nutrients and boosts the cow's own energy reserves and immune system to promptly get her back on track and consuming forage.

### Calving Season:

The calving season for many is just here, so be prepared! Proper, clean and disinfected calving pens along with iodine, calving jack, ropes and calving camera are all essential.

Body condition score is of critical importance at calving as cows too fat are as problematic as cows too thin. With the rise in milk price towards the end of 2016 along with excellent weather, many decided to milk on for longer than anticipated. This came at a cost to many cows as their condition suffered, leaving some cows with a short period of time to reach the desired body condition score at calving. At calving you should aim for a body condition score of 3. Remember calf size doubles in the 2 months before calving leaving little room for forage and therefore weight-gain more difficult to achieve. For this reason you may need to feed  Easy-Calver nuts. This is an excellent quality nut which includes oats, which tends to provide more vigorous calves at birth and facilitates easier calving. Includes a top of the range pre-calver mineral which will deliver 100grams per cow per day at a feeding rate of 2kg.

[www.grennans.ie](http://www.grennans.ie)

Please visit our recently revamped website, where you can keep up to date with all that is happening in Grennans and see our full range of products. You can log into your account to view and print your statements and invoices. **If you don't have your login details, please contact us.**

