



NUGGET

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NEWSLETTER JULY 2018

What Will a Drop in Milk Yield Actually Cost?

The challenge for the next few weeks will be to stretch out grass supplies whilst maintaining dry matter intakes and fulfilling nutrient requirements through the use of alternative feeds. Farmers need to maintain milk production as best as possible. Letting cows drop in yield will be hard to recover during the remainder of the season, significantly impacting total production. During a normal lactation curve, milk yield drops by approx. 2.0 % per week after peak yield. Milk yield should not decline by any more than 2.5% a week (10%/month) after peak yield. For example, a herd of 75 cows (average calving date 16th March) milking an average of 25 litres, the difference in milk sales between a 2.0% and 2.5% decline per week is worth €6,080 (when milk is 32c/litre). Similarly, from June 28th, the difference in milk sales between a 2.5% and 3.0% decline per week would equate to a further €5,520 loss. This example stresses the importance of feeding cows to meet their nutritional requirements, especially during the current dry spell where grass has become very scarce. Contact any member of our technical team to discuss your options in terms of stretching available fodder, balancing diets & best value in the alternative feeds.

Cobalt Deficiency in Lambs & Calves

By Damien Conboy B.Agr.Sc

Cobalt Power Pak is a highly concentrated liquid supplement containing Cobalt, vitamins including B12, Zinc and Selenium.

Cobalt is the most commonly diagnosed mineral deficiency in sheep mainly due to their inability to store cobalt. Most pastures are deficient in Cobalt and Selenium. In young animals this can give rise to pining, poor thrive and loss of appetite. Cobalt & Vitamin B12 are vital for energy metabolism and growth.

Cobalt deficiency is observed in weaned lambs and calves at pasture during summer. Signs include poor thrive and appetite & poor body condition. This can occur even where high quality feed is available to the livestock.

Monthly dosing of lambs with Cobalt Power Pak will supply sufficient cobalt for growing lambs.

Benefits of Cobalt Power Pak:

- Designed to support rumen function and protect against ill thrift and pining.
- Supports the stimulation of protein & carbohydrate metabolism.
- Supports immunity and fleece.
- Supports thrive and vitality.

Animal Health – Parasite build-up on Grassland

By Shane Gonoude B.Agr.Sc

During July, there is a natural build-up of larvae on pasture. Larvae infection in grassland is one of the main reasons for lack of thrive in animals, especially during the first grazing season.

The main parasites present are gut (stomach) worms, lungworms (hoose), liver fluke and rumen fluke. Look out for signs of coughing in calves. If calves are coughing, this indicates a build-up of lungworms. Prevention is always better than cure but if coughing has already commenced you will need to treat animals without delay, you will also control the build-up of stomach worms.

Lungworms have a high reliance on grass and are more likely to occur in dairy calves as opposed to suckled calves. In young stock, severe infection can reduce growth rates up to 30%.

Bucket reared calves at grass for the first time, have the greatest risk of infection as they are eating reasonable amounts of grass and have little immunity developed. Regularly weighing calves can be used to ensure a target 0.7kg plus per day is being achieved. Taking regular dung samples will also determine the number of worm eggs present in faeces.

Pneumonia in calves is also a major risk. High day-time temperatures followed by low temperatures at night are optimum conditions for the occurrence of pneumonia in calves. A difference of 12°C between night and day can lead to the occurrence of pneumonia, so be vigilant, particularly with young calves. For advice or information on any of our Animal Health products, contact one of Retail Branches.

Finishing Beef Cattle at Grass

By Shane Gonoude B.Agr.Sc

Many beef cattle will soon be finished from grass and this coincides with a big reduction in the quality of grass and a rise in the energy requirements of finishing animals. This means that mid-summer grass is not capable of supplying the nutritive demand of the finishing animal.

This year especially, grass growth is struggling massively due to the current heatwave.

For these reasons it is very important to supplement those finishing animals with a high energy dense concentrate for the last 10 weeks of finishing. Concentrates will speed up weight gain, spare grass and most of all increase profits through improved turn-around time.  Super Bull Nuts or Beef Grass Finisher Nuts are ideal concentrates for this time of year.

The key to successful beef production is a quick turn-around time. The longer you have an animal on-farm, the more costs incurred.

Fodder Crops

By Paul Mooney B.Agr.Sc

With winter fodder reserves already being used, action needs to be taken. Brassica fodder crops (kale, Redstart, Rape) can provide big yields in a short space of time & depending on your situation, they may be a very valuable option. Kale can be sown until mid-July, after that Redstart is the preferred option.

Redstart is a cross between Kale & Rape, giving the combined traits of each. This includes yields similar to kale and rapid growth similar to rape. Crops can be grazed 70-90 days after sowing.

Approximate Guidelines for Redstart procedures

July 6th - Burn off pasture with 2lt/acre of Gallup.

July 20th - Disc field (1 pass should be enough)

- Apply 2 bpa of 18-6-12.

- Broadcast 3.5kg of Redstart seed.

- Roll (Preferably with a flat roller as it gives better consolidation of seedbed).

Aug 10th - Apply 1lt to 2acres of Stratos ultra to eliminate volunteer cereals (if after a cereal crop)

Aug 20th - Apply 1.6 bags per acre of CAN + S

For more information, contact your technical sales rep.

Dairy Hygiene Focus



By Tony Makim

Dairy hygiene management is essential in achieving high quality milk results. J.Grennan & Sons stock a wide range of Biocel dairy hygiene and teat care products.

Biocel Quatro: A premium quality teat dip. Contains high levels of emollient for excellent skin condition. For pre & post milking. Broad spectrum rapid disinfection. Available in a dip, foam or spray.

Biocel Circodine: P is an alkaline chlorine detergent/sanitiser powder. Suitable for hot and cold use. Proven to be very effective especially in hard water areas. An easily rinsed, low foaming formulation. Circodine P eliminates the need to leave product in plant between milking's.

Biocel Circodine CF: is an activated **Chlorine-Free** powder detergent suitable for hot and cold use. Again, it is proven to be very effective in hard water areas & can be easily rinsed from equipment.

Biocel Aquasan: is an Alkaline/Chlorine liquid milking plant & bulk tank detergent suitable for hot and cold use. Also very effective in hard water areas. It has a low foaming formulation that is easily rinsed from equipment. Aquasan is suitable for use in both manual & automatic washing systems.

Management and Feeding During Heat Stress

By Conor Condron B.Agr.Sc

As record breaking temperatures are set to continue into July, the risk of heat stress occurring in herds is now at its highest. During periods of heat stress, intakes are reduced & energy is redirected to reduce body temperature rather than milk production.

Cows can be comfortable in temperatures up to 25°C. With recent temperatures of 30°C, cows are at risk of severe heat stress as they are unable to cool down quick enough.

A cow's body temperature should remain at 38.8°C. Rumen digestion generates heat which must be lost to the environment. However, when temperatures are high, this heat is lost slower, causing a rise in body temperature resulting in heat stress.

Reducing heat stress:

Allowing access to shade such as housing.

Minimize moving cows during the heat of the day

Provide plenty of cool, clean water. Milking cows typically require more than 100 litres of water per day and will drink between 2 and 6 times a day.

Offering higher levels of concentrates will support dry matter intake and help cows maintain energy requirements, even though overall dry matter intakes are less. This will also limit heat production from fermentation as forages generate more heat by fermentation than concentrates.



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

Thank you!