

Newsletter MAY 2019

Have you noticed a decline in Milk Fat Percentage?

by **Conor Condron** (Nutrition/Feed Specialist)

What causes Low Milk Fat?

The main reason butterfat production reduces is when rapidly digestible, low fibre grazed grass is consumed. Butterfat is derived from acetate, a volatile fatty acid (VFA) produced in the rumen, when rumen



bugs break down fibre. Grass fibre levels are usually at their lowest in April - May resulting in low milk fat. Low milk fat can also indicate that cows are suffering from SARA (Sub-Acute Ruminant Acidosis). This effects appetite & energy intake, which in turn, will lead to much reduced milk protein & even lower fertility.

What can be done?

Every effort should be made to boost rumen pH & increase fibre intake. Choosing the right concentrate feed is critical in this regard, but is even more critical when you consider the numerous knock-on effects of SARA.



New to Nugget



Fat Max Dairy 13 Nuts

- Almost identical to our high energy Elite Breeder 14 Nuts, with one key difference - the inclusion of 15% straw.
- Will deliver 0.6 kgs of straw in 4kgs - Our experience is that the average cow simply will not eat anywhere near that level of straw when offered freely.
- Designed to combat acidosis at grass, improve rumen function & increase milk fat %.

Contains: Yea-Sacc, Acid Buff, Actifor and Minerals & Vitamins. All of which are PROVEN to further improve rumen function & will help prevent a drop in milk fat.

For more information, contact a member of our sales team.

Creep feeding lambs this season?

By **Damien Conboy** (Sheep Specialist)

Nugget animal feed range has exactly what you need.

PEDIGREE LAMB CRUNCH:

Pedigree Lamb Crunch is specially designed to encourage intakes in young lambs, promoting early rumen development & maximising daily live weight gains.

Key Features:

- **18%** crude protein.
- High inclusion of **toasted** Maize, Barley, Oats, Beans and Peas
- Protein sources from **Soya Bean Meal & Full Fat Soya**
- Extremely **palatable**.

ELITE LAMB PELLETS:

A highly nutritious & palatable feed for lambs. Top quality ingredients ensure maximum digestibility, energy intakes & lamb development.

Key Features:

- 18% crude protein.
- Protein sources: Soya Bean Meal & Golden Distillers.
- High energy delivered through Maize & Barley.
- Beet Pulp & Soya Hulls provide sources of digestible fibre.
- Elite Lamb Pellets can be fed right through to finishing.
- Tried, tested & proven as the first choice pellet for many Pedigree sheep breeders.

For more information contact: J Grennan & Sons.

Lameness in Cows

by **Shane Gonoude** (Animal Health Specialist)

Lameness is a very significant problem & is associated with decreased production & impaired reproductive performance. Lameness is often in a lot of pain. They lie more & eat less. This means they lose more weight, are more inclined to have a suppressed immune systems & are less inclined to go back in calf. This results in a higher cull rate - a massive cost to you.

What can you do?

- Routine hoof checks
- Reduced overcrowding in sheds/collecting yards
- Ensure sufficient cubicles/floor space available.
- Foot bath regularly with Kanters Hoof Mix - HIGHLY Effective

Kanters Hoof-Mix

- Reduces infection pressure
- Has a broad workout spectrum
- Effective even at low temperatures
- Based on Organic Acids - Tried, Tested & Proven.
- Active in faecal material.

How?

- Dilute to 3% (3 litres per 100 litres water)
- Clean hoofs with water before treatment
- Ensure the foot bath is minimum 150L
- Refresh the footbath after every 150 cows

“What the farmers say”



Seamus Claffey: Liquid Milk producer, Moate, Co Westmeath.

“ I have been using the **POWERSTART Silage Inoculant** for the past 6-7 years. It always delivers a very good preservation. **POWERSTART** treated silage gives me higher silage intakes, better milk yields & increased milk solids over the winter period. The use of **POWERSTART** makes financial sense ”

Excess Protein at Grass – Beware!

by **Conor Condron** (Nutrition/Feed Specialist)

Grass is a high protein feed; Grazed grass can be 20-29% Crude Protein (CP). Therefore a concentrate with a CP of 12%-16% is more than adequate to meet the cows’ dietary protein requirements. Energy content (UFL) is of greatest importance at this time of year. Aim for a concentrate of >0.95UFL fresh weight.

On average, high quality 2nd rotation grass alone can support 20-22 litres of milk. Every litre produced above 20L will require 0.5kgs of concentrate. See table below showing average concentrate required based on various grass Dry Matter Intakes:

	Compound required (kg/d)					
	8kg DMI	10kg DMI	12kg DMI	14kg DMI	15kg DMI	16kg DMI
20 litres	7.4	5.1	2.8	0.4	0.0	0.0
22 litres	8.4	6.1	3.7	1.4	0.2	0.0
24 litres	9.4	7.1	4.7	2.4	1.2	0.1
26 litres	10.4	8.0	5.7	3.4	2.2	1.0
28 litres	11.4	9.0	6.7	4.4	3.2	2.0
30 litres	12.3	10.0	7.7	5.3	4.2	3.0

Over supply of protein is often an issue this time of year. Excess dietary protein is converted to urea in the liver. Urea is then excreted from the body through urine & milk. The energy cost associated with converting this excess protein into urea equates to approx. 1 litre of milk. A high milk urea/U-value is usually an indicator of excess protein in the diet. High milk urea levels can have adverse negative effects on fertility & overall cow health.

To find out more, contact a member of our technical team.

Time To Think Silage

by **Brian Delaney** (Beef Specialist)

After only a few weeks on grass, cattle are already showing great thrive due to high **intakes** of **quality** grass. With 40% of annual feed coming from silage based diets, we must increase intakes & quality of winter feed to achieve maximum performance. Eg: Weanlings will need an extra 2kg of concentrates with silage cut on 15 June compared to silage cut on 20th May.

Influencing Silage Quality

- Cutting Date is the biggest factor – Aim for 20th May
- Target 75 DMD & 25-30% DM (Dry matter)

Regardless of weather conditions, the use of POWERSTART silage additive will drive performance. POWERSTART is the only additive to contain Aber F1 bacteria which can access both the simple and complex (stored) sugars in grass. POWERSTART is available in 100 tonne packs. Each pack contains 4 sachets. Each sachet will treat 25 tonnes of silage.

POWERSTART works by:

- Having the correct bacteria to produce more “sweet” lactic acid and less of the “sour” acetic and butyric acids
- Increasing palatability & maximising intakes
- Ensuring rapid fermentation, locking in more nutrients & maximising quality
- Trials have shown 27% increase in weight gain when POWERSTART is used
- Convenient to use... just add water and go!



For more information, contact J.Grennan & Sons.