



## Anti-Microbial Resistance What can be done at farm level?

by Shane Gonoude (Animal health specialist)

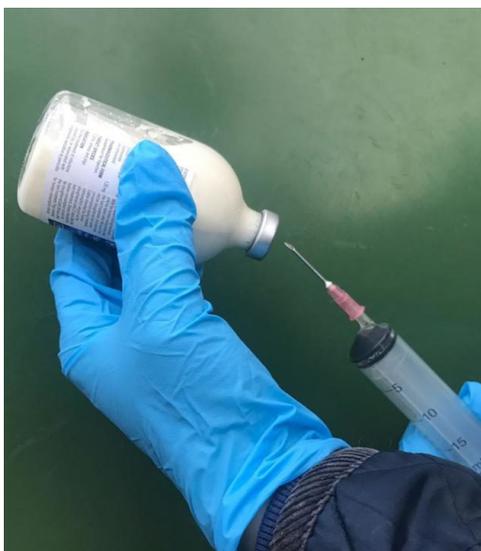
Microbial resistance to antibiotics (AMR) has become a problem in recent years. We believe “prevention is always better than cure”. The first step you can take to prevent the development of AMR is to improve the overall health status of your animals. Reducing the usage of antibiotics will lower the risk of animals developing AMR. Healthy animals optimise production, which provides improved margins for producers and the best quality food for consumers.

Good disease prevention strategies are multi-factorial, such as: good biodiversity measures, adequate housing, correct stocking densities, vaccination and parasite control programmes. Implementing change to reduce antibiotic usage will mean a change of approach, at both farm and industry level.

For dairy farmers, the blanket use of dry cow therapy (DCT) will cease in January 2022 and farmers will have to practice selective DCT. Farmers must begin milk recording to ensure the correct cows are treated with the correct antibiotic. Realistically, for farmers not already milk recording, there are 8-9 opportunities to do so before this date. Farmers must pay attention to these results and interpret them correctly.

Recognising that antibiotics remain a necessary part of farm animal medicines, it is important to note that recommendations are guided by the principle “as little as possible, as much as necessary”. Going forward our aim must be to reduce antibiotic usage through achieving the highest possible standards in animal health.

To implement a vaccination plan on your farm or correctly interpret your milk recording results contact a member of our team.



## Subclinical Milk fever- Cascade effect

by Seán Holian (Dairy specialist)

For every 1 case of clinical milk fever on farm, there are up to 10 cases of subclinical milk fever. There are a vast range of characteristics of subclinical milk fever post calving. This puts both the cow and the calf at risk. Uterine infections, mastitis, displaced abomasum's, lameness and infertility are all knock-on effects of this condition. Cows suffering from sub clinical milk fever will have reduced feed intakes and will suffer from negative energy balance. The loss of production and increased replacement rate due to sub clinical milk fever is an expense that farmers do not always account for.

The transition period, especially the dry cow diet is critical in the prevention of milk fever.

Calving cows at the correct BCS of 3.0, feeding the correct silage (low potassium) and supplementing sufficient levels of magnesium in the dry cow diet will help. In the 6-8 weeks prior to calving, calcium should be restricted, and magnesium should be supplemented in the diet. Magnesium should be 0.4% the cows total DM intake.

Supplementing the diet with a top quality precalver mineral such as our Acorn Precalver Elite at a rate of 100g/cow/day, the cow will get 25g of magnesium. The cost of feeding a quality precalver mineral is nothing compared to the incurred costs and loss of production as mentioned above. Chat to our technical team about meeting your cows requirements pre calving.

## OPENING HOURS

23rd Dec	Business as usual
24th Dec	9am -1pm
25th Dec	Closed
26th Dec	Closed
27th Dec	Closed
28th Dec	Business as usual
29th Dec	Closed
30th Dec	Business as usual
31st Dec	Business as usual
1st Jan	Closed
2nd Jan	Business as usual
3rd Jan	Business as usual
4th Jan	Business as usual

## Christmas Orders

Please ensure you order sufficient product to see you through the busy Christmas period and into the new year as there will be a restricted delivery service over the Christmas period. Thank you!

## Date for your Diary January 2020

J Grennan & Sons will run a series of “Calf Management & Health” seminars in late January in 3 locations – Tullamore, Portlaoise and Tuam

Topics to be covered on the night include: Nutrition, housing & health

Dates and venues will be confirmed in January Newsletter.

## “What the farmers say”



“ I am always very happy with my flocks performance on the **Super Ewe & Lamb 20%** ration and I will continue to use it this season. I also started using **Nugget Pedigree Lamb Crunch** last year and I would recommend it to any sheep farmer producing pedigree or commercial lambs. ”

Ciaran Coughlan, Ferbane, Co. Offaly  
Pedigree Vendeen breeder

## Ewe and Lamb Diets by Damien Conboy (Sheep Specialist)

The most important thing when choosing a suitable ewe & lamb diet is ensuring the diet will deliver sufficient colostrum once the ewes lamb down and lambs are healthy and lively at birth. The way ewes are fed in early lactation will also have lasting effects on lamb performance. Ewes should be fed with quality ingredients that meets their requirements. Silage testing is very important for sheep farmers as poor quality silage will have implications on the ewe in late pregnancy. It takes forages with a DMD value of 70 plus to meet the nutritional requirements of ewes in mid pregnancy.

By feeding a high quality diet such as **Nugget Super Ewe & Lamb 20%**, milk supply in the lactating ewe will be maximised, thereby increasing lamb vigour and overall output on farm.

Soya bean meal is the main protein source included in this ration which will deliver plenty of good quality colostrum. The range of quality cereals included such as oats, barley & maize ensures palatability and good intakes that meet ewes energy requirements in late pregnancy.



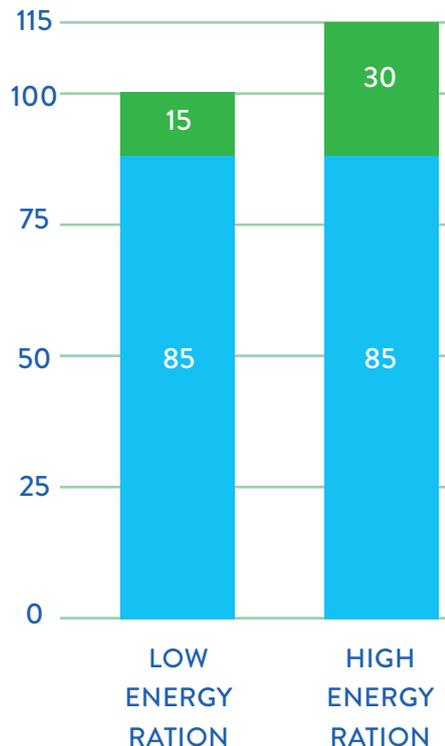
## Maximising Ration Energy Density

by Brian Delaney (Beef Specialist)

A beef animal’s potential gain is determined by the amount of energy they can extract from their feed after their maintenance requirements are met. 2 ways of maximising energy intake are:

1. Feed the best quality concentrate based on high energy ingredients and additives that increase the digestion efficiency in the animals stomach.
2. Increase the amount of feed the animal consumes. This is affected by the quality of the concentrate and the forage. Poorer quality feeds are higher in fibre, which take cattle longer to digest, which makes the animal feel fuller, which in turn limits the amount they eat.

The graph to the right demonstrates that a 10% increase in energy intake can double the amount going towards live weight gain.



## Season's Greetings

As we come to the end of another year, on behalf of my family and work colleagues, I would like to thank you for your most valued business and support throughout a difficult 2019. It’s very important for all of us in Grennans to remember that our business is only as good as the support we receive from you, our very valued customer. We look forward to your continued, valued support throughout 2020 as we make our best efforts to provide you with a continuously improving service. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on how we can improve our service to you in the future, contact any staff member or email - [suggestions@grennans.ie](mailto:suggestions@grennans.ie)

On behalf of all at Grennans we wish you a most enjoyable Christmas and a happy, healthy & prosperous 2020.

*John Grennan*