

Newsletter JULY 2020



Is Phosphorous Availability an Issue on Your Farm?

By Aisling Claffey - B.Agr.Sc,Ph.D (Dairy & Grassland Specialist) – 086 0317483

Rainfall across the country has greened up farms and is a welcome reprieve to drought conditions, which had become quite severe on many farms across the country. Growth rates have increased rapidly, and grass should be measured every 4-5 days to respond to rapid changes around the farm, particularly where the grass wedge has become 'flat', with many paddocks reaching optimum grazing covers at the one time (1400-1600 kg DM/ha)! Target a cover/cow of 180 kg DM/ha and use surplus growth as an opportunity to bale paddocks, replenish stocks of silage and correct grass quality on farm for subsequent rotations!

Many farmers have reported typical symptoms associated with a lack of phosphorous (P) in the diet of the dairy cow (PICA – eating stones, plastic, licking walls etc.) with some farmers

observing a notable impact on fertility on farm. A typical dairy cow requires 70 g of P/ day and in most circumstances, there is enough availability from the grass to achieve this.

Where there is not enough P available, we have created a '**Hi-Phos**' **Cow Care 16** nut to supplement herds showing these symptoms.

Hi-Phos Cow Care 16% Dairy Nut

- Delivers approx. 12 g P/kg feed.
- Additional Di-Calcium Phosphate.
- High energy and protein nut, ideal supplement for those buffers feeding grass silage.
- *Grennan's Rumen Boost protected mineral package with Live Yeast.

A full mineral analysis on grass is also available - contact Aisling on 086-0317483, or a member of our technical team for more information- grennans.ie/technical-team



Saving Enough Silage For The Winter

By Brian Delaney - B.Agr.Sc (Beef & Crop Specialist) - 086 0449592

Thankfully, grass growth rates are returning to normal and there still is plenty of time in the year to reduce the tight supply of silage. Below are some points which will help to build silage stocks.

- With long daylength, high soil temperature and adequate soil moisture there will be an excellent response to applying fertiliser. If no fertiliser has been applied recently, apply an NPK + S compound immediately at a guide rate of 0.5-1 unit N/ac/day.

- The deficit on each farm varies depending on land type and stocking rate, so completing a fodder budget now will help to highlight what needs to be done. Planning now will give you a lot more options than later in the year – we can help you with this.

- Grass on grazing platforms can go from scarce to abundant nearly overnight! Instead of topping, take every opportunity to remove surplus/strong grass as bales helping to build silage stocks and improve quality of grass for the next grazing.

- Feed concentrates to cull cows and cattle near finish to reduce stocking rate on the farm before growth rate slows in the autumn time.

- Aim to harvest 2nd cut silage by the end of July/early August so that grazing covers can be built up for the autumn. Alternatively, sowing

a fodder crop after winter barley and grazing in Oct/Nov can reduce the requirement to build autumn grass covers. This could allow extra grass to be saved as a 3rd cut.

- Outwintering lighter stock on fodder crops such as redstart or fodder rape will reduce bedding, housing and silage requirements in the winter. Sowing dates, nutrition and volunteer cereal control are very important in the success of these crops.

Please contact any of our technical team @ grennans.ie/technical-team for guidance on calculating fodder budgets or husbandry of fodder crops.



WILD OATS

Wild Oats left in a tillage field for one year will cause you at least 8-10 years of further headache, as well as affecting the quality of our finished feeds, so it is in everyone's interest to control them.

Every year, from mid-June onwards, is the time to start the job of hand rogueing. Don't dump in field ditches as they will grow in situ and over time get spread throughout the field via combines. Pay particular attention to around poles and corners where sprayers miss.

Where all other control measures have failed, a pre harvest Round Up breaks dormancy, this must be followed by a good stubble cultivation afterwards.

If grain contaminated with wild oats comes to us, it is likely that there will be a deduction in the payment for that grain - this is essential for us to maintain the high-quality standards of the NUGGET brand. Please see below for details.

Wild oats per 100grams of grain	Deduction/tonne grain
Less than 50	None
50 to 150	5 euro
150 to 300	10 euro
Greater than 300	Possible Rejection

NUGGET 4 WAY SHEEP BUCKETS

20Kg Molassed Mineral & Vitamin Block

- Delivers high levels of 4 different forms of zinc to cater for the wide variety of nutrient interactions that can occur in different soils and forages. These interactions often suppress the uptake of vital minerals such as zinc.
- Such high levels of zinc will help harden your sheep's hooves, improve overall hoof health and reduce the incidence of lameness in your flock.
- The inclusion of high levels of cobalt is designed to reduce 'summer stop' in lambs, i.e. the all too common reduction in lamb thrive in mid-summer due to cobalt deficiency. Just 2.5g per head per day of this bucket will supply the recommended 1mg of cobalt that will in most cases prevent summer stop.
- The increased levels of selenium & Vitamin E are extremely beneficial in terms of disease prevention and avoidance of white muscle disease (*Muscular Dystrophy*)



Call us today on
057-9133002

NEW

EASY BEEF 16% COBS



- Complementary feedstuff for grass
- Highly convenient
- No troughs required
- No waste
- ▶ High cereal diet, well balanced with good quality protein to lay down new muscle and grow a good-sized frame.
- ▶ 16% crude protein, Over 40% cereals.
- ▶ Ideal for all growing beef cattle over 6 months such as weanlings, yearlings and stores.
- ▶ Contains live yeast to help improve digestion and optimise rumen health.
- ▶ Contains *Grennans Bovine + Yeassac Beef Mineral & Vitamin pack to supply all essential minerals and vitamins required to support rapid growth of muscle and bone.

For more information contact a member of our technical team on grennans.ie/technical-team

Trace Element Deficiencies in Lambs

By Damien Conboy - B.Agr.Sc (Sheep Specialist) - 087 2124036

- Cobalt has a single role in nutrition, it is converted to vitamin B12 by microflora in the rumen. A deficiency will lead to loss of appetite, poor thrive and loss of condition (pining).
- Cobalt is the most commonly diagnosed mineral deficiency in sheep mainly due to their inability to store cobalt.
- Cobalt levels in grass can be particularly low during the summer, so lambs that are reared on a grass-based diet only are particularly susceptible to cobalt deficiency.
- At a practical level, farmers experiencing cobalt B12 deficiency find it difficult to get a finish on lambs, and sales are often reduced over the high-risk period for cobalt deficiency (summer).
- Other trace element deficiencies especially selenium and zinc further compound the problem.
- Therefore, it is vital to supply lambs with sufficient cobalt via a creep feeding concentrate containing an intensive lamb mineral, drenching, boluses or mineral lick bucket.

Creep Feed: Lambs that have access to a good quality creep feed (*Nugget Elite Lamb Pellets*) containing cobalt at 2.5mg/kg should not require any other mineral supplementation as their requirements would be met once their intakes exceed 400g/head/day.

Nugget 4 Way Sheep Blocks: contain maximum permitted levels of cobalt and zinc. Such high levels make them a very good cost-effective way of supplementing cobalt as small daily intakes will meet lambs' requirements for both cobalt and other minerals and vitamins.

For further information contact a member of our team today.



Managing Parasites

Shane Gonoude - B.Agr.Sc (Animal Health Specialist) - 087 6466707
& Joe Naughton - B.Agr.Sc (Calf Specialist) - 087 1452586

Internal parasites, gastrointestinal and lung worms, are major constraints of livestock production. Both ultimately lead to reduced performance and potentially stock losses. All livestock can be affected by internal parasites, but first-season dairy calves are among the most vulnerable animals on cattle/dairy farms - they have low immunity and graze harder than suckler calves of the same age. The worm burden will be higher after the recent summer rains, increasing the vulnerability of calves, so keep an eye your herd.

Good practice for prevention of worms in calves:

- Where possible, especially in a dry year, get calves to grass 4 to 6 weeks before 1st treatment - allows build-up of natural immunity through exposure. Early use of worming products will reduce the calf's natural immunity.
- Calves should have their own grazing block that has not been grazed by older cattle in that year.

- Use after-grass and re-seeds for grazing young calves, both should have a lower parasite burden.

Good practice for management of worms in general:

- Monitor livestock for early detection and carry out fecal egg counts before using worming products - to limit resistance development.
- Ivermectin products, like Acomec Injection or Pour On, are useful for first season calves, as they have persistent activity, e.g. Acomec prevents lungworm reinfection for 28 days.
- On dairy farms, save Ivermectin's for first season calves if possible.
- The ideal interval between Ivermectin injections is 35 days, but if pasture burden is low, fecal egg counts are clear and animals are growing at a satisfactory rate, subsequent dosing may be unnecessary.
- Alternative options include Dectomax and Cydectin pour-ons and injectables.
- Avoid underdosing - the main driver of resistance.