



Anthelmintic Resistance

The importance of alternating your different active ingredients for cattle

By Shane Gonoude - (B.Agr.Sc) - Ph: 087 6466707

Anthelmintic wormers are used to control stomach/gut worm infections. Anthelmintic resistance occurs when worms survive a dose of a wormer that would be normally expected to kill them.

There are currently three classes of anthelmintic wormers available for the treatment of gut worms in cattle, white drenches (benzimidazole's, 1-BZ), yellow drenches (levamisole's, 2-LV) and clear drenches (macrocyclic lactones, 3-ML). Once worms are resistant to a specific class, all products in that class will be less effective.

Preventative measures are essential to ensure anthelmintic resistance does not become a problem in your herd. You should:

- Alternate wormer products containing active ingredients from different groups.
- Be aware that products may contain the same active ingredient but are branded differently.
- **Always read the label of the product.**

As in sheep, anthelmintic resistance in cattle is usually identified using a faecal egg count reduction test (FEC). A fully effective anthelmintic dose reduces egg count to 0 after administration. If the egg count is greater than 5% after use of an anthelmintic, then anthelmintic resistance is present. Early detection is essential so it can be managed easily, and the lifespan of the existing drugs can be prolonged. New anthelmintic drugs are costly and take many years to develop so it is important we use the ones we have wisely.

If worried you may have resistance on your farm it would be a good idea to get a faecal egg sample done before and after dosing. If you do not monitor faecal egg counts, anthelmintic resistance will only be detected when there is production loss from failure of the wormer treatment.

Contact us for more information on carrying out faecal egg counts (FEC) and any further advice on dosing products this housing period.

Possibilities of Sowing Winter Beans Should they be tried again?

By Paul Mooney - (B.Agr.Sc) - Ph: 086 3532342

Consistent high yields from beans were achieved for many years by sowing spring bean varieties in the winter. Unfortunately, this came to an end when varieties got destroyed by Ascochyta after emergence. That is many years ago, but today we think we have a new variety which has improved disease resistance, standing ability and

earliness of ripening. This year, we are trying this new variety on a small scale and we will bring the results to you during 2021. From experience we know that crows are a major problem with winter sowing but sowing with a strip seeder like a Claydon or Missouri that can put the seed down 5 inches should overcome the problem.



Flock Fertility

By Damien Conboy - (B.Agr.Sc) Ph: 087 2124036

Flock fertility is one of the key measures of success in a sheep enterprise today. Achieving a healthy and prolific breeding season followed by a stress free and efficient gestation are key to maintaining a profitable flock. Minerals and vitamins play a vital role throughout the breeding season to ensure that the ewe comes into cycle quickly and effectively, healthy eggs are produced, fertilised eggs are held, and the performance of the rumen is optimised to its maximum. All of these important processes can only be achieved through effective supplementation of key mineral and trace elements such as phosphorous, selenium, zinc, cobalt, Vit B12 and Vit E. The addition of these minerals and trace elements makes our Nugget 4 Way Sheep Buckets the ideal sheep bucket pre-tupping and throughout the breeding season.



Mineral Supplementation for Grazing Brassicas

By Conor Condon - (B.Agr.Sc) Ph: 086 1453416

Brassicas are most suited to grazing of light stock such as weanlings/heifers. Leafy brassicas have a similar energy content to that of concentrate feed so grazing management is key. Brassicas contain highly digestible carbohydrate and are low in fibre and minerals. Therefore, providing a fibre source is crucial in order to prevent rumen disorders. Brassicas should constitute max 70% of the diet, with 30% coming from a fibre source like silage, straw or hay. Brassica crops are particularly deficient in copper, iodine and selenium. Nugget 4 Way Copper buckets contain high levels of all essential minerals and vitamins and are ideally suited to complement grazing forage brassicas.

Nugget 4 Way Copper Buckets contain:

- 350mg/kg of iodine which will make up for the low iodine levels in forage brassicas.
- Adequate levels of manganese, zinc and cobalt which are also in short supply in brassicas.
- 4 different forms of copper and 40% protected Bioplex copper to aid in copper availability to the animal.

Copper availability is a major issue with brassicas as the high sulphur content can make copper unavailable to the animal. Nugget 4 Way Copper buckets contain maximum permitted levels of copper which combats this shortfall.





A GOOD START IS HALF THE BATTLE

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



While things may be winding down on farm for this season, the dry cow diet is a critical part of ensuring 2021 gets off to a trouble-free start and sets the cow up for a fruitful lactation.

White blood cells play an integral role in defending our bodies in fighting infection and are often overlooked for their importance in PREVENTION of infection, which has never been more important with increasing pressure to reduce antibiotic usage, particularly in the dry cow.

White blood cell (WBC) activity is naturally suppressed at calving which put simply means:

1. Higher number of dormant WBC.
2. Reduced mobility to get to the site of infection.
3. They are less vigorous at fighting infection.

Recognising these facts about WBC and understanding how to influence them can make a massive difference, not alone to the basic health of your herd or flock, but also to its overall productivity, and in turn, profitability of your farming enterprise.

Blood glucose and calcium levels are two of the main drivers of WBC activity. Therefore, management of the dry cows is critical to ensure diet quality and dry matter intake levels are correct to maintain glucose levels and that every step is taken to mitigate the risk of milk fever.

For every clinical case of milk fever in your herd there at least 5 subclinical cases!

A consequence of our grass-based diets is that many grass silages have a high DCAB level due to high levels of potassium taken up by the plant following slurry and fertiliser applications.

Potassium interferes with the dry cow in two ways: 1) reducing Mg absorption and 2) interfering with the Parathyroid hormone. Magnesium and Parathyroid hormone are essential to the successful extraction of calcium from the kidney and bones to cope with the spike in demand associated with colostrum and milk production.

Calcium is also critical for muscle function and when milk fever manifests itself in the most severe form it results in the 'down cow' as calcium is pulled from the blood if the aforementioned mechanisms fail.

Other implications of sub-clinical milk fever include:

- Reduced white blood cell activity (increased risk of infection).
- Reduced rumen motility (lower DMI, increased risk of ketosis, LDA etc.).
- Reduced uterine muscle contractions (slow/difficult calving, retained cleanings, metritis, reduced fertility).
- Teat sphincter activity – leaving the udder exposed to dirt/bacteria and increasing risk of mastitis.

Aromabiotic is a natural compound, contained in all of our **Immuno** range, that was originally found in the intestinal lining of a rabbit. It has been scientifically shown to increase the reactivity and efficacy of WBC, ensuring they can suppress any incoming infections.

For as little as €3*/cow you can give your herd the best chance of overcoming this period of vulnerability and make this busy period less stressful on both man and beast!

**based on minimum of 3 week feeding rate of Aromabiotic prior to calving*

aromabiotic[®]
Boosting Immunity - Naturally

Included in all our Immuno Products

Makes White Blood Cells:

- More Responsive
- More Mobile
- More Effective

Ideally fed from 3 weeks before calving and right through early lactation.
Cost: 12c - 15c per head / per day

✓ Less Retained Cleanings
 ✓ Reduced Uterine Infections
 ✓ More Milk (+1ltr per day)
 ✓ Improved SCC's

✓ Aromabiotic Farm Pack
 ✓ Immuno Pre-Calver Mineral
 ✓ Immuno Pre-Calver Nuts
 ✓ Immuno Mega Milk 16 Nuts

What the farmers say...

“ Grennans Immuno Pre-Calver minerals have definitely improved the health of my herd. I noticed I only had to wash out 1/3 of the cows I normally would, which left little work to be done pre-breeding. There was only 1 case where I had to withhold milk. Overall, there has been a big improvement in SCC, running at nearly half normal levels all summer. Grennans Immuno Pre-Calver is very valuable for me and I definitely wouldn't be without it. ”

- William Stronge - Tullamore, Co Offaly

Contact us today: 057 9133002 | sales@grennans.ie | www.grennans.ie

