

Newsletter December 2020



The Iceberg Disease – Milk Fever

By Aisling Claffey - (B.Agr.Sc., Ph.D.) - 086 0317483

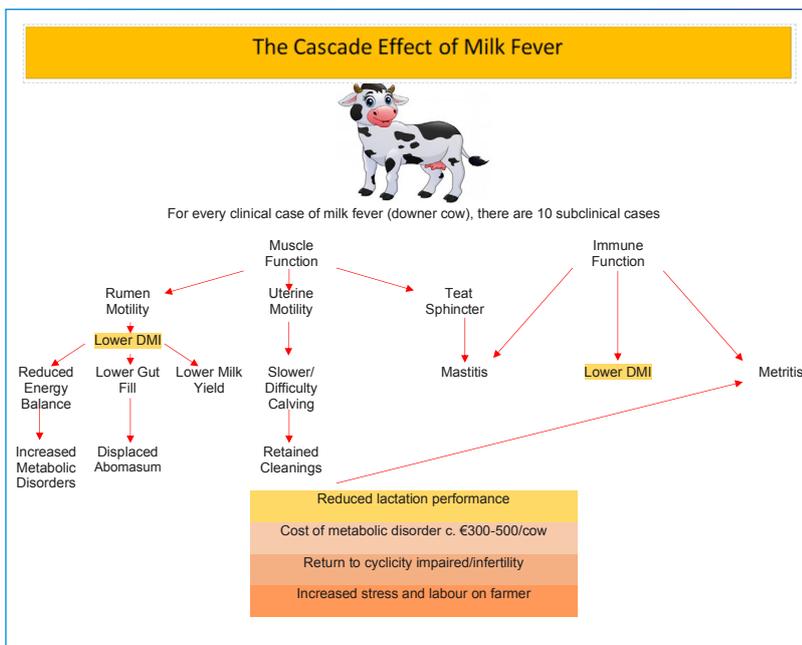
Milk fever is a typical iceberg disease – where we see one down-cow there can be between 5-10 other animals undergoing a subclinical form of the metabolic disorder. The disorders associated with subclinical milk fever can have a detrimental effect on cow and calf health, early lactation performance and subsequent reproduction.

At calving time, a cow must pull extra calcium from its body to produce colostrum. This calcium should come from the bones and kidneys, but where milk fever occurs there is failure of the calcium metabolism processes to extract enough calcium from these sources, resulting in it being extracted from the blood. This diverts calcium in the blood away from its other important functions: muscle function and the immune system. The real problem lies in the fact that these 2 simple issues can in turn lead to a Cascade of serious cow health & production issue, including more retained placentas, increased levels of metritis, depressed appetites, excessive weight loss, ketosis, reduced yields, higher SCC's, lower milk solids, poor conception rates & ultimately much higher culling rates in the herd. So, the financial

implications for you are potentially massive.

If muscle function is impaired it can result in a slow/difficult calving and retained cleanings, while suppressed rumen function will reduce dry matter intake at a time when the cow is already in negative energy balance. Approx. 70% of cows are exposed to a uterine infection post-calving and most mastitis cases can be linked back to infection during this period.

It is critical to take steps to mitigate milk fever during the dry cow period, including feeding low Potash/low DCAB silage, supplementing



with 100-150g/cow/day of Grennan's Elite Pre-calver or going the **extra mile and introducing** your cows to our Immuno Elite Pre-calver mineral, to boost her **immunity and ensure she** gets the best start to her lactation!

Season's Greetings

As we come to the end of a year like no other, we would like to sincerely thank you for all your business and support throughout 2020. We hope we have put sufficient measures in place to help you feel safe and secure when visiting our premises and thank you very much for choosing to deal with us.

We will do our best to continue to improve our services to you and hope we can look forward to your custom and support throughout the year to come.

Please feel free to forward us any suggestions or thoughts you

may have on how we can improve our service to you in the future by contacting any member of staff or by sending an email to suggestions@grennans.ie. We really appreciate any feedback or insight from you.

We hope you and your family have an enjoyable Christmas, despite all the restrictions we have to deal with and wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

Best wishes and thanks again for your support.

John Grennan



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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

Respiratory Diseases in Housed Cattle

By Aideen Fleury - (B.Sc.VN/RVN) Ph: 057 9133585



Respiratory diseases in housed cattle is one of the most significant cause of mortality in weanlings and older cattle. There are obvious costs associated with animals that die from these diseases. What is always much more costly is the hidden costs associated with less severe respiratory issues in the remainder of the group. This causes lifelong ill thrift, poor appetite and irreversible lung damage which will become a tremendous cost to you.

Causes

1. Parasitic

Lungworm infestation causes a parasitic pneumonia or "hoose". Hoose should be considered when cattle are seen to be coughing at pasture or just after housing if weather conditions were wet/ humid prior to housing. This will be exacerbated by exercise, and open-mouth breathing is commonly seen.

2. Viral/Bacterial

Cattle become infected by inhaling infective droplets produced by other infected cattle. The most significant viruses are IBR, RSV, PI3 & BVD. These viruses can cause disease by themselves or alternatively they can damage the defence mechanisms of the upper airways, thereby allowing secondary bacterial infections take hold.

Risk factors

- Mixing of cattle from different sources
- Overcrowding and/or poor ventilation
- stress factors immediately before housing such as weaning, castration, transport, etc.

Prevention/Control/Management:

Where obvious signs of lungworm are evident always use a Levamisole based product. This works by paralysing the lungworm and allowing the animal to expel them through coughing, as opposed to killing the worm in the lung and a secondary pneumonia arising due to animals' inability to expel the dead worms.

Here at J Grennan & Sons we use an additive called **PulmoFit** in a range of our Nugget branded products. PulmoFit, better known as Pulmosure or Lungbooster is a cost-effective solution for respiratory support. It's a completely natural product which breaks down the mucous associated with lung infections, therefore enables the animal to cough it up and clear the airways much more effectively.

*Lungbooster / Pulmosure Feeding Options & Costs per day

(*Active ingredient = PulmoFit; Recommended daily dose for disease prevention = 3grs per 100 kg LW / DAY)

| | Unit Size | PulmoFit content | Recc Feeding rate 100 kg LW / DAY) | Delivery cost per day for typical 300 kg Weanling | Additional Benefits of this Method |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Super Weanling Crunch + Lungbooster | Tonnes | 3 grs / kg | 1 kg | 12 cent | Getting 3kgs of quality meal + full compliment of Beef Minerals + Yeassac |
| Grennan Bovine + Pulmosure Mineral | 25 kg Bags | 120 grs / kg | 25 grams | 16 cent | Getting full compliment of Beef Minerals + Yeassac |
| Pulmosure 7kg Pack | 7 kg Bucket | 240 grs / kg | 12.5 grams | 38 cent | No Extra Expense Involved |

Key Point: The benefits of Lungbooster are achieved more economically when fed via Super Weanling Crunch or Grennans Bovine Mineral package

Suckler Cow Care During the Dry Cow Period

By Brian Delaney - (B.Agr.Sc) - Ph: 086 0449592

A suckler cows' diet during the dry cow period can have a dramatic effect on the success of the calving period. Once you have analysed your silage and assessed the condition of your cows, the diet can be determined by the following table:

| | | Thin Cow | Good Condition Cow |
|----------------|--------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Silage Quality | 75 DMD | Restrict Silage | Restrict Silage |
| | 70 DMD | Ad-lib Silage | Restrict Silage |
| | 65 DMD | Ad-lib + 1 kg Easy Calver nut | Ad-lib Silage |
| | 60 DMD | Ad-lib + 2 kg Easy Calver nut | Ad-lib + 1 kg Easy Calver nut |

Notes:

- When restricting silage, straw can be used to ensure rumen fill and help to reduce energy in the diet.
- When feeding silage only, it is particularly important to top-dress with 125g/head/day of Grennans pre-calver mineral.
- Easy calver nuts are formulated to deliver full requirement of minerals when fed at 2 kg. Therefore, when feeding at 1kg, 60g of pre-calver mineral will also have to be added to the silage.

Ewe Diets are the Backbone to Lamb Performance

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

The way ewes are fed in early lactation will have lasting effects on lamb performance - quality ingredients are essential to help pregnant ewes meet their requirements. Well-constructed ewe and lamb diets should deliver plentiful supplies of high-quality colostrum and should ensure trouble free lambing and lively lambs at birth.

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 any Nugget Ewe & Lamb feed, 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 our diets and this is very important for colostrum production. The inclusion of high-quality cereals such as oats, barley and maize ensure good palatability leading to good intakes that allow ewes to meet their energy requirements in late pregnancy.

