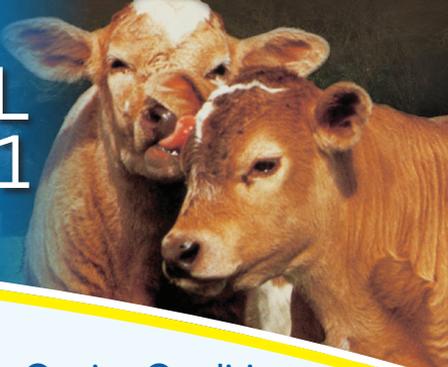


Newsletter APRIL 2021



Preparation for Breeding Amidst Challenging Grazing Conditions

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

Breeding season is fast approaching on the back of a challenging spring in terms of weather, variable grazing conditions and meeting the energy demands of the early lactation dairy cow.

April is a particularly challenging month for spring calvers because they are approaching peak production and grass availability can be variable, especially in the transition phase between the first and second rotations.

The overall aim is to have cows cycling well. See opposite there are several key tasks that should set your herd up for a successful breeding season:



1. Assess body condition score - Target BCS is 3.0 (2.75 to 3.25 range) – Cows below 2.75 could possibly be placed on once-a-day milking to increase BCS.

2. Tackle lameness issues - Lame cows will generally lose BCS and display poor heats.

3. Encourage high levels of dry matter intake - Energy deficits must be avoided. Ensure adequate pre-grazing covers (1400-1600 kg DM/ha) and sufficient allocations (post-grazing height of 4cm). Supplement with high quality concentrates* (0.9 + UFL/kg as fed) and buffer feed if grass is scarce. *See the sums below.*

4. Breed your dairy replacements from your best cows - Use beef AI on poor producing, low protein, high SCC animals. Take your time to select the bulls that will maximise genetic gain within your herd.

5. Pre-scan cows that haven't shown heats - It's vital to tackle underlying issues early, particularly animals that had twins, difficult calvings, retained cleanings etc.

*Quality Pays – Everytime!

*Ensuring that your cows have an energy dense diet is well worth the investment. See figures below outlining the difference in payback from a high energy concentrate (A) vs a low energy concentrate (B).

Concentrate	A	B
Typical Cost (€/ton)	€300	€270
Cost of feed (€/kg) (X)	€0.30	€0.27
UFL (per kg concentrate as fed)	0.98	0.90
Litres delivered/kg of concentrate	2.2	2.0
Value of milk (@30c/l) delivered/kg conc fed (Y)	€0.66	€0.60
Return on Investment/kg fed** (Y minus X)	€0.36	€0.33

**Conclusions:

1. The extra yield alone delivered by the higher energy concentrate will more than cover its higher cost per tonne.
2. Most importantly, a higher plain of nutrition will also reduce mobilisation of BCS, improve milk solids, drive up fertility and greatly enhance longevity in the herd and overall herd health.

We would say it is a no brainer!

RATH
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC
057 91 35004

TINNYCROSS
057 93 25500

MOATE
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT
090 64 36358

MOYVORE
044 93 55593

Pasture Max 15% Dairy Nut

In light of recent changes to the Nitrate Derogation rules, we've now added have a 15% dairy nut to our range. Pasture Max 15 is formulated with high levels of maize, barley and beet pulp to offer excellent levels of energy to the cow at grass, our Rumen Boost Dairy

mineral package included to buffer the rumen when fibre levels are at their lowest in grass. CalMag is covered at a 3 kg feed rate to maximise dry matter intake from grazed grass over the summer months.

Calves Going to Grass

By Joe Naughton – (B.Agr.Sc) – Ph: 086 1452586

Over the next few weeks bucket reared calves will start to go to grass. Here are a few important things to consider.

See across all of ways to reduce Summer Scour Syndrome occurring in your calves. This is a condition that effects calves shortly after turnout. It is mostly caused by acidosis due to dietary change.

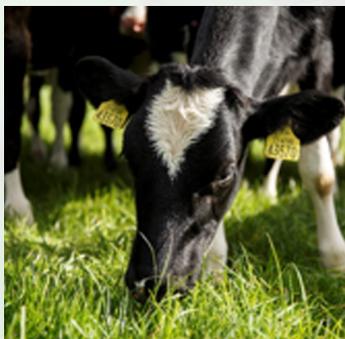
Calves indoors are typically on a concentrate + straw or hay-based diet, while calves on lush green grass must tolerate high levels of nitrogen, high levels of sugars and low levels of fibre.

SIGNS OF SUMMER SCOUR SYNDROME:

- Calves stop thriving, begin scouring, have poor appetite and start losing weight.
- Calves can have a brown or grey scour. (Grey scour indicates a more severe level of acidosis).
- Badly affected calves need rehydration therapy, may need to be rehoused, and/or put back on milk.
- *Consider using Grennan's Early Graze Calf.

- It is important to have calves eating 2kg of concentrate per day before turnout. Continue to feed 2kg per day for at least 3 weeks after turnout until calves become adjusted and then feed at least 1kg per day for 1 month after that.
- Avoid turning calves out to very lush covers to reduce the risk of acidosis and molybdenum toxicity. Turn calves out to older pasture with high covers where some stem will be available. Also, make straw available to calves at grass as a source of fibre to promote gut health. Best to offer fresh straw each day for a period of 4 to 8 weeks until calves become adjusted to a grass diet.
- * Feed concentrates that are designed for feeding at grass.
- Make sure water troughs are clean and select a sheltered paddock to start off in.
- If calves start to scour, it is important to rule out the more common issues first, such as Coccidiosis, Nemadotodirus and molybdenum toxicity. So, carry out FECs (Fecal Egg Counts). Contact your local J Grennan & Sons branch or rep to avail of this service.

***Consider using Grennan's Early Graze Calf.**



	Early Graze Calf Nut	Super Grow Calf Nut
UFL (As Fed)	.96	.96
Cr. Protein	17%	17%
Cr. Fibre	13%	7%
Starch	14%	24%
*Grennan Super Calf Mineral Package	Included	
Live Yeast (Actisaf)	Included	
Rumen Buffers	Higher Levels	Normal Levels
Price €	Same price	
Bag	Same bag	

Reducing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) on Dairy Farms

By Aideen Fleury – (Bsc.VN/RVN) – Ph: 057 91 33585

Everyone involved in the care and husbandry of farm animals has a responsibility to take steps to reduce AMR. Failing to do so means, going forward there will be less and less drugs available to farmers for treatment of infections and the drugs we are left with will be less effective.

The best way to prevent AMR is prudent and responsible use of all antimicrobial agents. It's vital to use the correct dosages and to do so for the prescribed time - no more and no less. In other words, stick to the instructions for that product rigidly.

Another key component of reducing AMR is an increased adoption of disease prevention strategies on our farms. This requires a sea change in attitude by everyone involved.



How Dairy Farmers can focus more on preventative strategies.

- **Enhanced biosecurity as much as possible** - This will reduce the chances of importing new and /or drug resistant bugs to your farm.
- **An annual herd vaccination programme** - Pre-agreed with your vet is an absolute must nowadays. You simply have no other option for diseases such as IBR and Coronavirus.
- **Consider probiotics rather than antibiotics** - There is massive investment going into the development of more effective probiotics and we see them as having a real role to play in disease prevention and disease treatment going forward. We are currently setting up a few calf rearing trials to look at one or two very promising probiotics, so we hope to have more on that for you later.
- **Improved husbandry management** - Adequate shed space and cubicles, effective on farm worming protocol, thoroughly clean and disinfect all equipment before and after use. Regular liming of cubicle, wash out clusters between cows, use of teat tip and milking high SCC cows in the herd last will all help improve incidence rates of subclinical mastitis and the need for antibiotic use.

Top Tips on How can we prevent AMR?

- Record antimicrobial use.
- Avoid using antibiotics against viruses.
- Use antibiotics for early treatment not prevention.
- Always use as prescribed, paying particular attention to the route and dose rate.



Managing Weeds in Re-Seeds will Save You Money

By Hilda Dooley – (B.Sc. M.Sc. Ph.D.) – Ph: 086 6074729

When conditions are right, weeds can quickly outgrow newly sown grass, leading to a reduction in quality of the new pasture and a continuation of weed problems into the following years – costing you time and money. One dock plant can produce 60,000 seeds per year, and seeds can remain viable for 70 years. Chickweed produces an average of 25,000 seeds per plant and has multiple life cycles throughout the year!!! So, allowing these types of weeds to become established in the first place invites bigger problems later.

FACT: Five mature docks in 35m² results in a 5% reduction in grass growth. This equates to a loss of approx. *€90/ha per year out of your pocket. (*in a typical sward producing 10t DM/ha per year)



Which will be easier to kill?

Top Tips for chemical control of weeds in re-seeds

- Get a good kill of existing weeds before re-seeding to reduce the number of weeds with mature roots in the new re-seed.
- When the grass is at the 2-3 leaf stage, walk the field and note the range of weeds and which weeds are most prominent – your Grennans rep can help you with this.
- Weeds of most concern post re-seed are docks and chickweed but look out for others such as thistle, buttercup and dandelions.
- Managing these weeds as seedlings is considerably more effective than waiting until later.
- Spray when the crop and weeds are actively growing and are not under stress.
- Choose the right product for your range of weeds.
- Pastor Trio is the best where you have a broad range of weeds.
- Envy is good where thistle is not a problem.
- Hurler is good where very young docks and chickweed are the main problem.



Acorn Sweet Tooth Grass Seed Now Available With or Without Clover

An essential part of the reseeding programme is to apply a post emergence weed spray that doesn't kill clover. Clover safe herbicides are no longer available, which now means over seeding with clover in established pastures has to be considered.

It's pointless buying clover and then killing it. This year you can buy our top grazing mixture Acorn Sweet Tooth with and without clover.

Sweet Tooth without clover will cost €6/bag less.

Contact us today for more information.

4 Way Sheep Bucket

- A top class mineral bucket for all lamb, hoggets, ewes and rams.
- Contains maximum permitted levels of ZINC to promote harder hooves, healthier feet and reduced lameness.
- Contains high levels of all essential minerals and vitamins, especially cobalt.
- Vastly reduces lameness in grazing sheep.



4 Way Copper Bucket

- For all calves, weanlings, beef cattle and cows.
- Particularly suitable for livestock grazing on high molybdenum / high pH / low copper / peaty soils.
- Contains high levels of all essential minerals and vitamins.
- Contains 4 different forms of Copper.

