

Newsletter JULY 2021



Target Terra Fertiliser Range

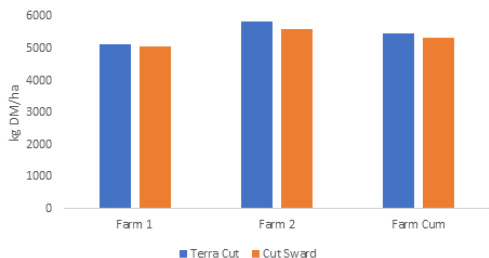
By Aisling Claffey (B.Agr.Sc., Ph.D.) – Ph: 086-0317483

The new **Terra Fertilisers** from Target are unique and highly effective. All Terra fertilisers contain a completely new and natural bio-stimulant that delivers top grass and cereal yields at 20% less Nitrogen than normal.

So, what is a bio-stimulant?

A bio-stimulant contains substances and/or micro-organisms, whose effect is to enhance certain biological processes within the plant. In the case of the Terra range, the specific molecules contained within its bio-stimulant (PSI 362) stimulate the nitrate transponders in the plant to take up more of the available nitrogen in the soil than they would otherwise do. Across a range of commercial farm trials to date, this process has allowed us to reduce Nitrogen application by 20% and maintain dry matter yields!

2021 1st cut silage trials



How does it work?

The extra nitrates taken up are converted into amino acids within the plant. One of these amino acids, Glutamine is highly important for chlorophyll production, and in turn, photosynthesis. This allows the plant to produce similar levels of biomass, despite receiving 20% less Nitrogen. Initial results would also suggest that the Terra bio-stimulant is contributing to a higher concentration of nutrients within the plant. We are seeing Terra fertilised first cuts being 3% higher in dry matter prior to harvesting! Higher dry matter levels in the plant support greater dry matter intakes in a grazing scenario.

Remember.... By 2030, Ireland will have to reduce its nitrogen fertiliser usage by 20%. We believe that the Terra range offers farmers a really cost effective and pain free pathway to achieving this goal!

Target Terra Fertilisers	N %	P %	K %	S %	Mg %
Terra CAN + S	22	0	0	3	
Terra Graze	22	0	5	3	2
Terra Cut	20	2	12	2	

'What the Farmers Say'

J Grennan & Sons bulk spread Terra Cut product for my 1st cut silage. I had heard good feedback from the initial trials last year, and I am very impressed with the first-cut silage crop having with 20% less N applied! I have topped up this ground with 3 bags/ac of Terra Cut for 2nd cut. This was a very simple way for me to reduce my Nitrogen fertiliser usage without sacrificing on yield and quality!

John Campbell, Rosemount, Co. Westmeath



Grain Hedging Update

By **Conor Condron** (B.Agr.Sc) – Ph: 086-1453416

Back in November 2019, we hosted an open discussion with our Grain suppliers on the whole area of Grain Price Hedging & the opportunities or pitfalls it presents. The meeting was attended by approximately 50 growers & Dr. Rory Deverell of StoneX, the grain brokerage company who first proposed the hedging system we are now using. Ever since then, we have been offering our cereal growers what is effectively an option to set a minimum price for their grain come harvest time. The advantage of this system is that they are just setting a minimum price for a selected portion of their expected harvest. They are not locking in a price! If the market falls, they are protected through the minimum price they have set. On the other hand, if the market rises, then they still get the higher price the market offers!

This system does not come cost free or risk free to growers. However, it does offer growers the potential to build in more stability and predictability into their grain price. It also offers the possibility of taking advantage of higher prices at whatever stage of the calendar year they are on offer, so grain growers are not necessarily just tied to the prices available at harvest time. Individual trades can be as low as 50 tonnes, so the option is open to most

growers, but ultimately it is up to every individual to decide for themselves whether grain hedging is for them or not.

It helps too that the man who brought this hedging system to us, is locally based i.e. Rory Deverell of Annaharvey Farm, Tullamore. Although now a highly experienced trader with StoneX, Rory comes from a strong grain growing background and as such understands the price challenges being faced by cereal farmers. Grain Hedges which were taken out by our growers earlier this year are performing very well at present. Although not all trades work out as positive as those did, they do show us the potential of this system.

We strongly believe cereal growing & tillage farming in general, is an essential component of the Irish agricultural industry going forward. We see a lot of merit in this new grain price hedging system & that it has the potential to become a very valuable new tool for cereal growers in the struggle to remain viable.

If it is something you would like to explore further with us, give Conor Condron a call on 05791 33505 or 086 1453416

Feeding Beef Cattle at Grass

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

As beef farmers, you have spent a lot of time and effort getting your animals to the stage that they are fit for sale. At the last hurdle, concentrates hold the key in maximizing the final “push” of these animals. Trials in Teagasc Grange have shown that feeding 3.5kg concentrates to suckler beef bulls on good quality grass, resulted in a heavier carcass

(+0.3kg/day) and better kill out % (+1%). Over a 6-week period, animals on concentrates will be worth over €85 per head more than cattle with no concentrates. The economic benefit will be even larger where grass supplies are tight, or grass quality is stemmy.

Some farmers might not be gaining this extra performance from their stock, due to the labour of moving troughs or the danger in feeding big cattle at grass.

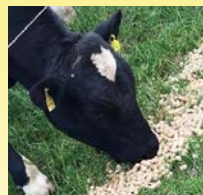
So why not avail of our Nugget Easy Beef Cobs. Due to their large size, cattle can eat these pellets directly from pasture - no troughs needed. Also, they can be fed from the other side of the fence, so you don't have to mix with the animals. These cobs are now available. (25kg bags only)



EASY BEEF COBS



- Ideal feedstuff for beef cattle over 6 months of age at grass.
- Highly convenient – No troughs required.
- Minimal waste.



For more information, please contact your local Nugget stockist and or any member of our technical team here at J Grennan & Sons.

GPS Soil Sampling

By Hilda Dooley (B.Sc. M.Sc. Ph.D.)

– Ph: 086-6074729

Soil fertility determines how productive a farm will be and maintaining the optimum soil fertility should be the primary objective on every farm. Regular soil sampling is essential for managing soil fertility. It is even more important to act on those results in a timely manner.

At the end of last year Grennans worked in conjunction with Farmteam Precision Agri to bring a digital soil sampling service to our customers. Those who availed of the service were very happy they did.

The benefits of this soil sampling service:

- **Completely automated** – using hydraulic soil probes it they can work in all soil conditions, ensuring accurate and reliable results.

- It also **saves you valuable time** - that you would have spent taking soil samples yourself.

- Each individual sample point is **geo-referenced**, which allows us to provide you with precise maps showing individual sample points (Image 1), and to follow up with easy-to-use colour coded results maps (Image 2).

What you need to do to

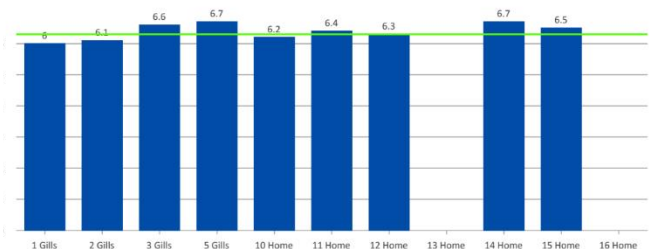
- **IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY** - Look at your most recent soil sample results, and if it is 3-5years since your last sample, it is probably time to sample again this year.

- **IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY** - If you are a tillage farmer, plan to get your soil sampling done before catch crops or before your winter crops are sown and directly after harvest as this would be a good time to examine soil structure.

- **IT IS NEVER TOO EARLY** - Talk to your Grennans Rep and book your GPS soil sampling to save you time, ensure accuracy, and help yourself make the best possible decisions.



Sample Geolocations	Client:	Nugget Farm Partnership
	Acquisition Date:	22/12/2020
	Lab Report ID:	SA11567
	Laboratory:	FBA Laboratories



pH (water)	Client:	Nugget Farm Partnership
	Acquisition Date:	22/12/2020
	Lab Report ID:	SA11567
	Laboratory:	FBA Laboratories



Watch this space for an easy-to-use app giving easy access to your soil results and recommendations.

Trace Element Deficiencies in Lambs: Cobalt is Key

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

- Cobalt has a vital role in lamb nutrition. It is converted to vitamin B12 by the microflora in the rumen. A deficiency will lead to loss of appetite, poor thrive and in extreme cases, pining.
- Cobalt is the most commonly diagnosed mineral deficiency in sheep, mainly due to their complete inability to store it in their bodies.
- Cobalt levels in grass can be particularly low during the summer, so lambs that are reared on a solely grass-based diet are particularly open to Cobalt deficiency.
- At a practical level, farmers experiencing Cobalt/B12 deficiency find it difficult to get a finish on lambs, and lamb sales are often curtailed during high-risk period (mid-late Summer).
- Other trace element deficiencies, especially Selenium and Zinc, further compound the Cobalt problem. Therefore, it is vital to supply lambs with sufficient Cobalt via creep feeding concentrate containing an intensive lamb mineral or alternatively by 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 because their requirements will be met once their intakes exceed 400g/head/day.

Nugget 4 Way Sheep Buckets contain maximum permitted levels of cobalt & zinc. Such high levels make them a very good and cost-effective way of supplementing Cobalt. Relatively small daily intakes

(10-15g per day) will meet your lamb's requirements not just for Cobalt, but also for all other essential minerals & vitamins.

Mineral Bolus: Are a very effective way of supplementing lambs with Cobalt and other important trace elements. The concept with boluses is that they provide long term supplementation by adapting slow-release technology. Small amounts of trace elements are released on a daily basis anywhere from 6 weeks to 6 months depending on the type used. For lambs a bolus should provide 1mg/head/day of Cobalt while adult sheep require twice that.

For further information contact a member of our team today.



FOUR REASONS TO USE NUGGET 4 WAY SHEEP BUCKETS



- 1 - 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.
- 2 - 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.
- 3 - 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.
- 4 - The increased levels of Selenium and Vitamin E are extremely beneficial in terms of disease prevention and avoidance of white muscle disease (Muscular Dystrophy).

