

“Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with all the brave people of Ukraine at this horrific time”

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JGRENNAN
& SONS



AHV - an Alternative Approach to Achieving Optimal Animal Health

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We are delighted to announce that we are now stockists and distributors of **Animal Health Vision (AHV)** products. Since their inception, AHV has helped thousands of livestock farmers around the world improve their animal health, increase farm profitability, and strengthen their resilience to the continually changing challenges of modern farming.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) represents one of the most important human and animal health-threatening issues worldwide. With AHV solutions focusing mainly on the natural immunity of the animal, AHV products are already playing a massive role in tackling AMR at farm level.

By working with the principles of quorum sensing, AHV have developed a range of broad-spectrum solutions, which target the biochemical communications within livestock. AHV solutions support the natural resistance of the animals, enabling farmers to avoid health issues in the first place, but also to provide an effective response to livestock health challenges if they arise.

AHV offers an in-depth, farm specific service, when you need it. This entails providing detailed advice and guidance, backed up by analysis, and one-to-one support designed to achieve measurable results and productivity targets. In doing so, they provide an easy transition to a more proactive approach and attitude towards achieving optimal herd health.

AHV's products and services are designed to address 5 key pillars of productivity:

- Fertility and Transition
- Udder Health
- Metabolism and Energy balance
- Calf Rearing
- Skin, Claw and Hygiene

In accordance with AHV's 'Complete Herd Health Concept' each of the above pillars are as important as the next. This comprehensive approach will enable your herd to be more productive, more profitable, and more sustainable in the long term.



WORKING TOGETHER FOR OPTIMAL ANIMAL HEALTH



NOW STOCKING AHV PRODUCTS

VIEW OUR RANGE OF AHV PRODUCTS AT A GRENNAN'S STORE NEAR YOU!

Alternatively find an AHV consultant in your area by visiting www.ahvint.com or calling the Ireland office on +353 (0) 57 868 8858 You can also email ireland@ahvint.com



Grass Re-seeding – more important than ever

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

Your annual reseedling plan is a crucial investment each year, but with production costs at an all-time high on Irish farms, many are tempted to scrap their reseedling plan for 2022. However, you should remember that you will get a significantly better response from fertiliser on new grass compared to old worn swards which have low perennial ryegrass content. Re-seeding will deliver a 15-20% increase in sward production which equates to an extra 3t of dry matter per hectare per year, and so will more than pay for itself.

As usual, we only stock the best available mixes of grass with varieties that rank very highly on Pasture Profit Index and Dept recommended lists.

Post-emergence clover-safe weed spray will be available in mid-May.



Variety	Kg/bag	Ploidy	Comment
Sweet tooth			
Abergain	2	T	Best available grazing mixture in country. Nothing will beat its production figures. Contains the leading new varieties with 50:50 mix of ploidies. Very good digestibility along with good utilisation.
Ballintoy	3.5	T	
Aberchoice	2	D	
Ballyvoy	3.5	D	
White Clover (naked)	0.6		
Goldtooth			
Ballintoy	2.5	T	Excellent for first cut of silage followed by grazing. This mix has got a major revamp and includes Gracehill which has the highest rating for one-cut silage.
Gracehill	2.5	T	
Ballyvoy	3	D	
Aberbann	3	D	
White Clover (naked)	0.6		
Two Cut Silage			
Aberclyde	4	T	Powerful mix for intensive silage production. Contains Aberclyde which is the highest ranked variety in Ireland.
Abergreen	4.1	D	
Aberwolf	3.5	D	
Heavy Peaty			
Briant	2.2	T	Ideal for marginal land. Highly productive mix for challenging sites which demand tightly knit swards and late heading varieties.
Abergreen	4.4	D	
Drumbo	4.4	D	
White Clover (naked)	0.6		
Diamond Hi Digestibility			
Astonenergy	3.5	T	Excellent quality paddock grazing mix. Delivers best available for pasture clean out, therefore eliminating a lot of topping.
Meiduno	2.75	T	
Oakpark	2.5	D	
Astonconqueror	2.75	D	
White Clover (pelleted)	0.75		

Risk or Reward – Economics of Feeding Dairy Nuts at Grass

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

Cutting feeding rates

With rising costs there has been a lot of talk about the potential for cutting back rates of concentrate. If giving this serious consideration, it is critical that any adjustments made to feeding rates can be compensated for with increased dry matter intake at grass, to ensure the cow receives adequate energy in preparation for breeding.

- 1 kg of concentrates = 6-7kg of fresh grass in terms of energy intake (UFL)

Typically, 1kg of most dairy nuts will deliver sufficient UFL to achieve 2 litres of milk, so if you do cut back the meal by 1-2kg, it's important to measure milk yield response to this change relative to the cost of the meal.

- 1 litre of milk = 50-55c while 1 kg meal = 42-45c

Milk Fat Depression

Last year we introduced Fat Care Dairy 14, which contains the additive Equaliser Cream (to be fed at 4kg to deliver 150g equaliser cream). Fat Care Dairy 14 was successful in increasing milk fat by at least 0.3% in herds that typically experience milk fat depression from mid-April onwards (see ROI below). Milk fat depression can be multi-factorial:

- Removal of silage from the diet reduces peNDF (physically effective fibre).
- Low grazing covers or high levels of leaf proportion results in high N levels, and high oil and fatty acid profiles in the grass, which may be detrimental to milk fat production.
- High levels of concentrates (5kg+) or high levels of starch reduces rumen pH which can impair the fatty acid profile delivered from the rumen, altering milk fat production.

ROI of feeding Fat Care Dairy 14% nuts using 2 different herd profiles

Example 1: a herd delivering 30 litres/cow, receiving 5 kg of Fat Care Dairy 14 vs. our standard 14% dairy nut delivering a 0.4% increase in milk fat %

Example 1	Litre/ day	Fat %	Fat kg	Value Fat /kg	Value/ day	Rate & cost	Total cost	ROI
Std 14 %	30	3.8	1.14	5.22	€5.95	5kg @ 40c/kg	€2.00	€3.95
Fat Care 14%	30	4.2	1.26	5.22	€6.58	5kg @ 44c/kg	€2.20	€4.38
Difference		0.4	0.12		€0.63		€0.20	€0.43

Conclusion: in a 100-cow herd, Fat Care Dairy 14% will deliver an extra €43/day (€1300/month) over the standard 14% Dairy nut

Example 2: a herd delivering 25 litres/cow, receiving 4 kg of Fat Care Dairy 14 vs. our standard 14% dairy nut delivering a 0.3% increase in milk fat %

Example 2	Litre/ day	Fat %	Fat kg	Value Fat/ kg	Value/ day	Rate & cost	Total cost	ROI
Std 14 %	25	3.8	0.95	5.22	€4.96	4kg @ 40c/kg	€1.60	€3.36
Fat Care 14%	25	4.1	1.025	5.22	€5.35	4kg @ 44c/kg	€1.76	€3.59
Difference		0.3	0.075		€0.39		€0.16	€0.23

Conclusion: in a 100-cow herd, Fat Care Dairy 14% will deliver an extra €23/day (€700/month) over the standard 14% Dairy nut

Real life situation

On 17th April 2021, Fat Care Dairy 14% was introduced to a local 130 cow herd, which went on to deliver 122,000lt for the month of May 2021. This herd saw a 0.39% (475kg) increase in milk fat achieved for May 2021, compared to May 2020 (see table). At current fat values (€5.22/kg) this would be worth €2500 for milk fat, with an increased feed bill of €800 for the same period!

Data for this herd is extracted from the co-op performance report 2021.

	Fat %		
	2020	2021	Difference
Jan	4.26	4.82	0.56*
Feb	4.37	4.6	0.23
Mar	4.45	4.35	-0.1
Apr	3.94	4.13	0.19
May	3.64	4.03	0.39

*The greater fat observed in Jan/Feb 2021 is related to the switch from split calving to all spring calving from the previous year

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The Importance of Soil Fertility before Considering Reseeding Grass or Overseeding Clover

By Brian Delaney – (B.Agr.Sc) – Ph: 086 0449529

Reseeding

When looking at a paddock that struggles to produce grass, the first instinct is to consider reseed. However, in all cases, the first action should be to carry out a soil test to highlight any deficiencies. If there are any major deficiencies in soil fertility, a new reseed will also suffer from poor production. It is vital to have a good lime, P and K status to ensure good establishment and root development of grass seedlings. When considering reseed, P and K status should be built up to index 3 and then 2.5-3 bags per acre of 10/10/20 applied at sowing.

When a new grass ley is established, continue to feed it. The higher production will increase offtakes, and if not replenished soil fertility will decline again, and the benefit of reseed will be lost.

Overseeding Clover

Due to the shallow rooting system of white clover, good soil fertility is the first step in successful incorporation. Lime is needed to encourage root nodulation, phosphate (P) is needed

for root development and potash (K) is required for the uptake of nutrients and water. If any of these macronutrients are low, the plants that germinate will be smaller in size and have less vigour to compete with the established root and leaf system of the grass. Good soil fertility is also vital to maintain persistence of clover in the sward.

Now is the time when high molybdenum and copper deficiency is at its worst in grazed pastures



**GRENNANS 4-WAY
COPPER BUCKETS
OFFER THE SOLUTION**

Role of Bio-Stimulants in Nutrient Uptake and Stress Relief

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

With continuing pressure to reduce our use of fertiliser, and changes in weather patterns leading to additional crop stresses, the role of bio-stimulants in improving crop growth should not be underestimated. Plant bio-stimulants are substances or micro-organisms that stimulate natural processes to; enhance nutrient uptake; increase nutrient use efficiency; increase tolerance to stresses; and improve crop quality.

Evidence of seaweeds being used as fertilisers date from Neolithic times. More recently, much research has gone into understanding the mechanisms behind why seaweeds are great for growing crops. Most notable for us is the use of the Terra molecule to increase nitrogen use efficiency in grass and cereal crops. While Terra is a bio-stimulant that has been derived from the seaweed *Ascophyllum nodosum*, it is not a seaweed product in itself.

Seaweeds contain natural plant growth hormone which encourage and support strong growth. Many seaweed products come from *Ascophyllum nodosum* which in nature is

exposed to extremes of temperature, salinity and light. To deal with these stresses, *A. nodosum* has evolved specific stress prevention compounds. In recent years we have been successfully using seaweed products such as MARIGRO to prevent and alleviate crop stresses. *A. nodosum* is also a rich source of minerals, trace elements, amino acids, humic and fulvic acid. The addition of these compounds will bolster the crops natural biochemical processes, which is especially helpful in soils that have poor nutrient holding capacity like sand/silt soils or low organic matter like many long-term tillage soils.



MARIGRO applied @1lt/ac on a new reseed will boost root mass development and in general is the ideal tank partner with your weed spray, as it helps with the uptake of chemicals and trace elements.