

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

Newsletter JULY

2022

J GRENNAN
& SONS

Cobalt Supplementation of Lambs

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

Cobalt supplementation of lambs pre- and post-weaning is key to maintain growth rate targets. Cobalt is the most diagnosed mineral deficiency in sheep, due to their **inability to store cobalt**. Cobalt is required by sheep for the synthesis of vitamin B₁₂ in the rumen, but cobalt levels in grass can be particularly **low during the summer**. So, lambs that are reared on a grass-based diet only are particularly susceptible to cobalt deficiency.

Generally, **lambs require 1mg of cobalt/head/day** and adult sheep need 2mg/head/day.

Symptoms of deficiency include loss of body condition, poor fleece quality, ears become dry and scaly (photosensitisation), loss of appetite, runny eyes with tear staining on the face, and raised worm counts indicating suppression of immunity.

At a practical level, farmers experiencing cobalt B₁₂ deficiency find it difficult to get a finish on lambs, and sales are often reduced during this time. Additionally, other trace element deficiencies, especially selenium and zinc further compound the problem. Therefore, it is vital to supply lambs with sufficient minerals via:

- concentrate containing an intensive lamb mineral,
- drenching,
- boluses,
- or mineral lick buckets.

CREEP FEED: Lambs that have access to a good quality creep feed, such as **Nugget Elite Lamb Pellets** which contain cobalt at 2.5mg/kg, should not require any other mineral supplementation - their requirements would be met once their intakes exceed 400g/head/day.

NUGGET 4-WAY SHEEP BUCKETS contain the maximum permitted levels of cobalt and zinc, while delivering optimum levels selenium and iodine. This bucket also includes high levels of Vitamin E, D3, A, B1 and B12.

Such high levels of vitamins and minerals make these a great cost-effective way of supplementing cobalt in a grass-based system.

For further information contact J Grennan & Sons



Photo courtesy of
@farming_life_ireland

Successfully Tackle Milk Fat Depression this Summer

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

Many of you will be all too aware of the rapid drop in milk fat which tends to occur in mid-April as cows enter the lush grass of second rotation and silage is gradually removed from the diet. For typical herds, milk fat reduces to approx. 4% at this time but in approximately 30% of herds it can drop as low as 3.6%, and even below that in a smaller proportion of herds.

Milk fat depression is a multi-factorial issue:

- Low rumen pH caused by insufficient dietary fibre.
- Increased acid load from high sugar content in the grass.
- High levels of concentrate and/or high levels of starchy ingredients in the diet.
- High oil levels (unsaturated fatty acids) in the grass that adversely affect the production of milk fat.

Our **Fat Care Dairy 14%** nut has been very successful this spring in counteracting milk fat depression, whilst also returning a healthy return on the extra costs involved. See typical cost benefit in the table below.

	Feed	Feed cost	Yield Kg/day /cow	Fat %/ Kg	Kg Fat/ cow	€ Fat/ kg	€ Fat / cow/ day
Top 14% Nut	4 kg @ 44c/kg	€1.76	27	3.6	0.97	€6.40	€6.21
Fat Care Dairy 14%	4 kg @ 48c/kg	€1.92	27	4	1.08	€6.40	€6.91
Difference		€0.16		0.4	0.11		€0.70

*This table is a direct example from one of the many farmers who has used the **Fat Care Dairy 14%** nut since late April. They saw a 4:1 return on the additional cost incurred when choosing this nut over their normal nut.*

The potential for growthy conditions throughout July, on the back of soil moisture deficits and low growth in June, will provide the ideal conditions for continued use of **Fat Care Dairy 14%** until milk yield declines and milk fat starts to naturally rise.

Grennans Fat Care Dairy 14% nuts – Testimonial

Our milk fats dropped rapidly in April and given the current milk price we wanted to get them back up as quickly as possible. We started using Grennans Fat Care Dairy 14% nut and were very happy to see a jump in fats from 3.52 to 3.84 within a week, and they have since stabilised at around 4.00. We are seeing a great return on the nut and will stay on it until later in the summer.

*Conor Ryan, farming with his father PJ,
Blue Ball, Offaly*



RATH
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC
057 91 35004

TINNYCROSS
057 93 25500

MOATE
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT
090 64 36358

MOYVORE
044 93 55593

Managing Bucket Reared Calves at Grass for July

By Joe Naughton – (B.Agr.Sc) - Ph: 086 145 2586

First season dairy calves are among the most vulnerable when it comes to acidosis and internal parasites.

MANAGING ACIDOSIS

- Supplement calves with 1-2 kg of our **Early Graze Calf Nuts** per day, ideally in 2 feeds, delivers high weight gain and helps to avoid setbacks from Molybdenosis, Summer Scour Syndrome and CCN.
- Calves should be on a grazing rotation getting fresh grass every 3-4 days.
- Keep an eye on calves where they may be entering lush green pastures. This lush grass breaks down fast in the rumen and can lead to acidosis. Strong grass in the headlands can have an important role to play here or else continue to feed straw.
- Where calves are highly stocked, apply 1 bag of 18-6-12 + S per acre after every grazing, roughly 22-28 days apart. We suggest 18-6-12 + S because it will help grass recover after the cold, harsh, dry June we have had.

MANAGING INTESTINAL PARASITES

Worm burden will be rising rapidly after the recent rainfall. Ideally, calves should have their own grazing block, and should not follow older cattle. In practice this is not always possible, and if so, allow sheep to graze alongside, or before, calves.

Worm burdens on both will be reduced because internal worms cannot cross between species. You could also prioritise after grass and reseeds for grazing young calves.

Worm drenches also should be considered from now on, but remember, overuse of wormers will slow the development of a calf's natural immunity and speed up resistance development.

- Carry out a faecal egg counts before using drenches and observe calves closely to detect if coughing/lungworm is a problem.
 - » Faecal egg counts generally do not give lungworm results unless specified, so talk to your lab first if lungworm is a concern.
- Ivermectin is the most persistent product available, but resistance is becoming prevalent on Irish farms, so try to save this group of products for use with first year calves if possible.
 - » Avoid underdosing, which is the main driver of resistance development.
 - » The ideal interval between Ivermectin injections is 35-42 days. It is always best to try giving animal 4 to 6 weeks exposure before the first dose.
 - » When injecting, make sure to rub the site after treatment to avoid any solution leaking out and change needles regularly approx. every 10 animals.
- If lungworm is a serious issue, use a white or yellow drench as the kill is slower and there is a lower risk of calves getting pneumonia from the rapid kill some products deliver.
- If pasture burden is low, faecal egg counts are clear and animals are growing at a satisfactory rate, subsequent dosing may be unnecessary.

Grow Cover Crops This Year

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

Cover crops are generally grown to improve soil health, but they also improve local environment and provide habitats for wildlife. In the short term, they stop nutrients (particularly nitrogen) from leaching, reduce erosion, improve soil structure, help manage diseases and help to suppress weeds. In the long term they improve soil organic matter and soil carbon levels, however cover crops need to be grown at every opportunity and it can take 5-10 years to start seeing these benefits.

There are many different types of cover crops, so think carefully about what species you are going to grow, especially where

- OSR is in the rotation – avoid brassicas,
- beans are in the rotation – avoid legumes,
- cereal seed crops are in the rotation – avoid cereals.

Whatever your situation, whether you have a short window between 2 winter crops, or are providing green cover for overwinter, grow a single species or a simple mix for best results. For more information on what's best for you, please talk to your J Grennan and Sons Rep.



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

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DAY

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16
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JUL
15

JUL
18



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OPEN DAY: JULY 16TH - QUARRYMOUNT FARM, TULLAMORE