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

Newsletter AUGUST 2022

HARVEST TO DATE & WINTER CEREAL ROTATIONS

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

The harvest is progressing nicely. Winter barley yields were variable turning in anywhere from 2-4t/ac. Winter oats finished up at from 3-3.6t/ac, which is good given the very dry year to date. Spring barley yields and quality to date are quite good to date, averaging 3t/ac, but a lot still to come in.

Poor winter barley yields have arisen from a combination of many issues, mostly driven by weather. Last winter gave optimum conditions for both take-all and BYDV to flourish due to low rainfall and unseasonably high temperatures. This left crops patchy and very hungry looking coming into spring. It was essential to feed these crops early but with the fertilizer crisis at play, many delayed applications which worsened the crops ability to maintain tillers and produce a decent yield. The spring was also cold and dry, which made problems worse for struggling crops. We cannot predict what weather a crop will get but we need to plan sowing date and rotation much better in future for winter crops and especially winter barley. Take-all is avoidable through correct rotation and virus pressure can be lowered by later sowing dates. To discuss these issues in greater detail please talk to us soon, so we can create a suitable winter cropping plan.

SWOPPING GRAIN FOR FEED-WORTH A LOOK

By Brian Delaney - (B.Agr.Sc) – Ph: 086 3532342

If you are considering home-saving grain to feed during the winter, the following points should be considered:

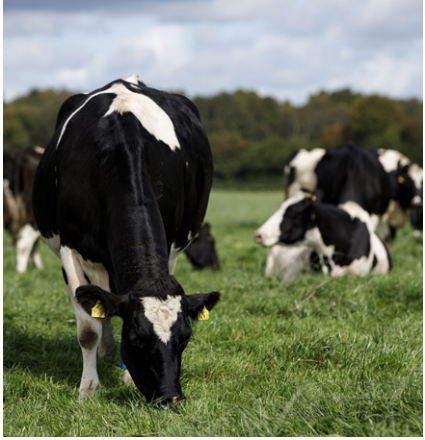
- The cost of propionic acid (Propcorn*) has increased by over 60% this year and supplies are tight. Ammonia based treatments (Kerva) are nother option but can be expensive.
- Grain stores need to be thoroughly cleaned and in excellent condition. Due to the increasing value of grain, any grain spoilage will be very costly. Mycotoxins in grains that are not stored correctly will have a dramatic effect on animal health and performance.
- Hidden costs such as bird and vermin control, grain store cleaning, insect treatment and polythene need to be factored in. Given the dramatic increase in diesel costs since last harvest, diesel costs really need to be studied before deciding to home-save.
- Labour availability is an issue on many farms. The simpler the feeding regime you can achieve, the better.
- Feeding a lot of cereal, even in combination with fodder beet, can cause acidosis. It is more important than ever to make sure the diet is balanced to ensure digestive upsets do not happen. The time needed to compensate for poor performance or digestive upsets will have a huge effect on your farm costs.

As an alternative to using home saved grain, swopping your grain with us for a balanced ration or nut offers greater convenience, more peace of mind and potentially major savings when feeding your animals this winter. Contact any of our branches for further details.

* Please note, Propcorn needs to be pre-ordered.

REPARE NOW FOR THE DRY COW SEASON

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



Winter forage is safely wrapped up inside the farm gate for many at this stage, and with that in mind it is time to start taking appropriate action for the coming dry cow season to ensure your herd gets the best possible start to their next lactation.

- Have you scanned yet to determine what cows are in calf for 2023?
- Should you consider letting empty cows go to help build grass cover and save on forage over the winter if you are tight?
- Have you sufficient milk recording data to consider selective dry cow therapy?
- Have you quantified the forage in the yard for this winter and your requirements?

As well as knowing how much forage you have, it is essential to know the feeding value (quality) of that forage. You cannot ensure BCS targets are met and adequate thrive is achieved in replacement heifers without this information. Meeting these targets will set the herd up for a successful lactation in 2023.

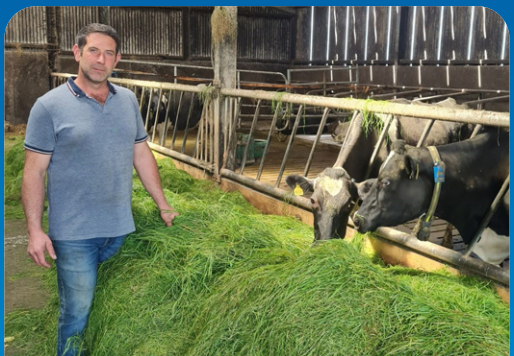
In addition, a mineral analysis, particularly of the forages that will be offered as part of the transition cow diet, should be completed. This will provide comprehensive information on both macro and trace minerals to identify deficiencies and the risk potential for sub-clinical milk fever in your herd. This information should be the foundation of any diet for the dry cow period and we would consider it absolutely essential that all our dairy customers are armed with this information at the start of the dry cow period.

So, you should take steps now to mitigate the risks of metabolic issues within your herd for the coming season. If you are interested in taking part in our Autumn 2022 silage sampling drive, please contact your local Grennans rep immediately to ensure your samples will be taken and results returned in plenty of time.

Silage Sampling is Definitely Worth the Effort – Testimonial

Last year we batched our baled silage and completed mineral analysis on them, having had significant trouble with milk fever in the previous spring! With the help of the Grennan's team, we identified the most appropriate dry cow silage, resulting in a less stressful and labour-some calving season with a huge reduction in milk fever and no problems after calving! It is definitely a program worth investing in!

John Heneghan, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon



AUTUMN VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR WEANLINGS

By Shane Gonoude- (BSc, MAgrSc) Ph: 087 6466707

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) is the most common cause of sickness and death in cattle greater than one month of age. BRD is the umbrella term used to describe airway or lung disease in cattle, the best-known example being pneumonia. The negative impact of BRD in cattle can be lifelong. Animals with a history of respiratory disease have reduced feed conversion efficiency, lower daily weight gains and can take up to two months longer to finish.

Stressors such as parasites (e.g. lungworm), inadequate nutrition, weaning, transportation and marts all suppress the immune system, leaving the animal more open to BRD. At this time of the year, it is important to make plans to dose calves for lungworm and stomach worm at least 4 weeks prior to weaning. The 4 weeks is enough time for lungs to recover before the stressful period of weaning. Levacide low volume drench is a good option here as it is effective in treating cases of mature and developing immature stages of gastrointestinal round worms and lungworms.

A well-planned vaccination programme is also essential and will help reduce treatment costs, labour, production losses and possibly deaths. However, while vaccinations help reduce the probability of disease they cannot solely be depended upon for prevention and husbandry protocols pre- and post-weaning will greatly improve outcomes of the BRD vaccination programme.

BEEP-S Vaccination obligations

To comply with the Beef Environmental Efficiency Programme Scheme (BEEP-S) farmers who opted for the optional Action 2 measure are obliged to vaccinate before weaning/sale.

Table 1. Respiratory pathogens and vaccine types

PATHOGEN	VACCINE TYPE	COMMENT
Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)	Live intranasal (IN) Live intramuscular (IM) Dead sub cutaneous (SC)	Principal pathogen in weanlings 6-12 months of age
Parainfluenza-3 (PI-3) virus	Live intranasal (IN) Live intramuscular (IM) Dead sub cutaneous (SC)	
Bovine herpes virus type 1 (BoHV-1) virus (Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis IBR)	Live intranasal (IN) Live intramuscular (IM) Inactivated sub cutaneous (SC)	BoHV-1 also present in weanlings diagnosed with BRD
Mannhaemia haemolytica	Dead sub cutaneous (SC)	

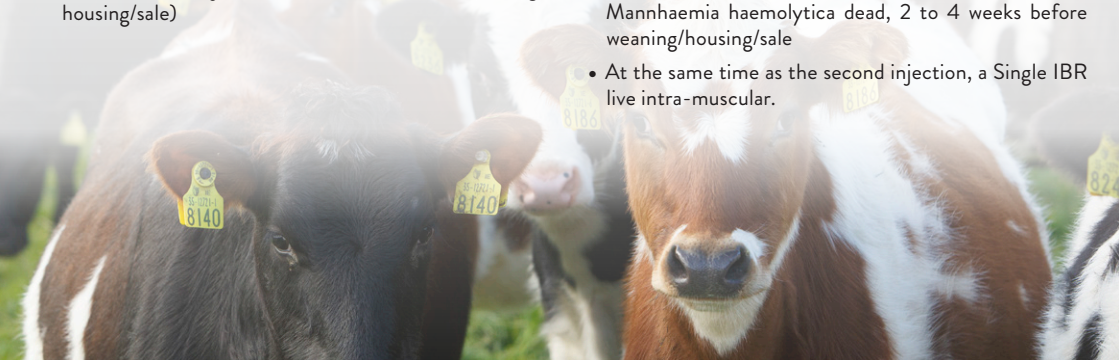
Applicants for the scheme must follow one of the following two protocols

Option 1. (If there is a short time before risk period or if cattle can only be handled once)

- Single RSV and Pi3 Intranasal 2 to 4 weeks before weaning/housing/sale
- At the same time, a Single (or 2 dose program) IBR live intra-muscular injection (2 to 4 weeks before weaning/housing/sale)

Option 2. (If there is more time before risk period or a broader coverage including bacteria is required)

- First subcutaneous injection of RSV, Pi3 and Mannhaemia haemolytica dead, 6 to 8 weeks before weaning/housing/sale (e.g. Bovillis Bovipast RSP)
- Second subcutaneous injection of RSV, Pi3 and Mannhaemia haemolytica dead, 2 to 4 weeks before weaning/housing/sale
- At the same time as the second injection, a Single IBR live intra-muscular.



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SHOULD YOU CONSIDER GROWING A MULTI-SPECIES SWARD?

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

Currently, there does not seem to be agreement on whether multispecies swards are for everyone. While we are seeing a regulatory backlash against the use of nitrogen, and a general consensus that overusing nitrogen and other inorganic fertilisers are neither good for the pocket nor the environment, to the best way to continue to grow crops and animals efficiently while reducing use of fertilisers is not yet broadly agreed, let alone acted upon.

Multi-species swards are being promoted to cut inorganic fertilizer use and improve soil health. For anyone who applied for the Multi-Species Sward Measure in April, the August 31st deadline to have your seed bought is fast approaching. This measure effectively subsidises the cost of the seed by 50%, up to a maximum of 20ha.

Stock thrives and milk very well on multi species swards, and annual DM yields can be as good as, if not better, than properly managed conventional perennial ryegrass/clover swards. However, opinions on multi-species swards or herbal leys are as diverse as land type/weather combinations. Dryer farms seem to be able to get the best from established herbal leys, although like all reseeds, they need plenty of moisture to get established in the first place. Whereas in wet conditions, and certainly on poorly drained land, they are more likely to struggle. Multi-species swards tend to be more open and so are more prone to poaching.

Multispecies swards can contain a variety of species, but in a typical Irish situation you are likely to see 4-6way mix containing species like perennial ryegrasses, red and white clover, chicory, plantain and sainfoin.

Things to note

- Your best opportunity to deal with weeds is before you sow. However, continually monitoring and spot treatment of weeds will be necessary to help maintain the productivity of the sward.
- Know your soil nutritional status – multispecies swards need a pH of 6.5 or greater. The ideal pH for clover is 6.9, and perennial ryegrasses do well at this pH also.
- A change of mindset regarding grazing may be needed – multispecies swards do better in the long term on a 30-day rotation rather than the usual 21-day.
- Potential anthelminthic properties in plantain may help to reduce worm burdens.
- Potential anti-bloat properties in sainfoin may help with bloat risk from clover.

We are in are times of significant change for all farmers and adapting to nitrates restrictions will be one of the biggest hurdles we face. Please talk to us if you need help establishing or maintaining your multi-species sward.