

Newsletter FEBRUARY 2023

J GRENNAN
& SONS



TERRA FERTILISERS – THE WAY FORWARD!

By Aaron Kealy – (B. Agr. Sc.) – 086 1999148

As the Irish farming community comes under increasing pressure to transition to more sustainable farming practices, farmers must consider alternative fertiliser options to reduce nitrogen use on their farm.

Terra is a sustainable fertiliser range from **Target** fertilisers, that facilitates a **20-25%** reduction in nitrogen (N) application on farm while maintaining grass growth and quality. This granular product includes a bio-stimulant called PSI 362, which stimulates the nitrate transponders in the plant to take up more of the free N in the soil, therefore facilitating a reduction in N application. Implementing Terra is as straight forward as a simple swap. For example, TerraCAN + S can be swapped directly for calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN) or CAN + S. Terra can

be used for the duration of the fertiliser spreading season. Extensive trial work has shown that when compared to straight N and high N compounds, the Terra products, with 20% less N, produce similar yields. As changes to the Nitrates Directive come into play, using Terra fertilisers presents an opportunity to reduce N application while maintaining farm productivity and output.

TERRA (PSI 362 TREATED) PRODUCTS:

22N + 4S + 4Mg (TerraCAN + S)

22N + 5K + 2S + 3Mg (TerraGRAZE + S)

20N + 2P + 12K + 2S (TerraCUT + S)

N = Nitrogen; P = Phosphorous; K = Potassium; S = Sulphur; Mg = Magnesium

Bulk Spreading Has Never Made More Sense

J Greennans & Sons state-of-the-art bulk spreaders use GPS, have auto steering, weight cells and automatic turn on/off, are well maintained and are calibrated regularly for unbeatable accuracy. When we spread your fertiliser, it will significantly reduce wastage, not to mention saving you time and money on hauling, handling and spreading your own fertiliser, as well as spreader calibration and maintenance. In 10t spread with 5% waste, 0.5t will be lost. Assuming a typical cost of €750/t this year, this amounts to a loss of €375 = €37.5 saved per tonne spread. The improvements in accuracy alone make huge sense.



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IMPORTANCE OF VITAMIN E IN SHEEP DIETS

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

Many sheep farmers will house their sheep in the run-up to lambing and weather dependant they will remain housed for a period after lambing. It is important to consider supplementing the vital vitamins that are naturally occurring in grass.

The primary source of **Vitamin E** in the natural diet of sheep, is grass. Because **Vitamin E** is not stored efficiently in the body, a daily supply is required. Hay and all stored forages are potentially low in **Vitamin E**. Adequate **Selenium** intakes are also vitally important for both the ewe and the lamb.

Deficiencies of **Selenium** and/or **Vitamin E** can cause:

- Ill-thrift
- Reduced ewe fertility
- Reduced immune response
- White Muscle Disease

Rapidly growing lambs are most at risk. These young animals have an increased demand for **Selenium** and **Vitamin E** for growth and have had less opportunity than their adult counterparts to accumulate body reserves.

At J Grennan & Sons we have considered all the above when formulating our range of Ewe & Lamb diets. Considering that many of our sheep feed customers will be feeding diets that are naturally low in **Vitamin E** in the lead-up to lambing we have decided to increase the levels of **Vitamin E** in our Ewe diets to 150iu/kg, and in the Lamb diets to 40iu/kg. Although expensive, we think the advantages of these high **Vitamin E** levels certainly outweigh the costs.

For further information contact J Grennan & Sons.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW RANGE OF ORGANIC FEEDS

We are now glad to announce that we have teamed up with the Brittany-based, Raizup Nutrition Care Company, a subsidiary of Le Gouessant, the long-established & well-known French Farmers Coop. Le Gouessant group are leaders in their field and are major players not alone in their local French Organic Feed market, but also export Organic Feeds all over Europe. So, we will be the sole Irish distributors of Raizup Organic Feeds in Ireland & we look forward to these high-quality Organic Feeds complementing our own range.

RATH
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC
057 91 35004

TINNYCROSS
057 93 25500

MOATE
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT
090 64 36358

MOYVORE
044 93 55593

CALF HOUSING – KEY REQUIREMENTS

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

A WARM AND WELL-VENTILATED CALF HOUSE

Calf housing must be draught-free with target air speeds at straw level of 0.15–0.3m/s. This is very important and if you are in doubt, we can help you to assess air speeds with the Air Flow Meter (see picture adjacent). A continuous stream of fresh air, travelling at appropriate speeds will remove excess moisture, effluent gases (such as ammonia) and airborne microbes. A correctly sized apex roof opening combined with correctly spaced side boarding provide the best natural ventilation.



A lot of older calf houses in Ireland could benefit from the installation of a Positive Pressure Tube Ventilation (PPTV) system. PPTV is a long, fan-inflated plastic tube that runs along the entire length of a calf building delivering clean external air out through a series of holes along the tube's length, meaning air is distributed evenly throughout the shed.

DRY BEDDING

Trials show 70 g/day difference in calf ADG between damp and dry beds. Calves spend 80% of their time lying

down, so the type, depth and dryness of the bedding is massively important. Check this by using the kneel test. Concrete floors should have a drainage slope of 1:20 towards a channel. Clean out bedding every 1-2 weeks and bed with fresh straw daily.

HYGIENE:

Feeder Hygiene: Best results are obtained using hot water and peracetic acid.

When washing feeding buckets, rinse with warm water (32-38 degrees) to remove excess milk and then soak all buckets in a warm/hot water solution (54-57 degrees) of liquid detergent for 30 minutes. Scrub to remove any biofilms and rinse again. Allow all buckets to drip dry.

In the case of automatic feeders, wash and disinfect teats daily with Milton solution to reduce the spread of disease.

Bright: >200lux

Light is very important and beneficial to young calves. Calves require 50 lux (5 watts/m²) of artificial light. 10% of the roof area should allow natural light into the shed. It is important to have a light over automatic feed stations and meal troughs to encourage calves to get up and feed during the night.



Tom Shaw
FARM MACHINERY LTD

**Grass Rejuvenation
Information Evening**

J GRENNAN
& SONS

Tuesday 28th Feb
2pm - 7pm

R42YW90

You are invited to a Grass rejuvenation information evening at Tom Shaw Farm Machinery, in association with J Grennan & Sons.

TACKLING SCOURS IN CALVES THIS SPRING USING NATURAL OPTIONS

By Shane Gonoude – (B. Agr. Sc., M. Agr. Sc.) – 087 6466707

Scours are responsible for up to 40% of calf deaths. Crypto is the leading cause (Animal Health Surveillance Report).

Scours can be classified into two groups, **Nutritional** and **Infectious**.

Nutritional scours are generally caused by a breakdown in the management routine and often progress to infectious scours. Once scouring starts, a calf becomes rapidly dehydrated and acidotic. They can lose 5% to 10% of their body weight via lost fluids in a single day, rehydration with good quality electrolyte packages such as **Nugget Pectolyte** is essential.

Optimising **Gut Health** is an essential pillar of minimising the incidences of scours and is key to successful calf rearing. Minimising the usage of antibiotics is also of paramount importance nowadays particularly as Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is now a global concern. The use of plant-based natural alternatives seem to be the way forward because they promote gut health and immunity from birth. They are proving to be very successful and they are well worth a try. We have two such products; **CryptoShield** and **Gut Guard**.

CryptoShield is a non-antibiotic complementary feed for calves, made up of a blend of plant extracts with high concentrations of natural polyphenols, combined with organic acids, which boost calf's performance while playing a big role in helping prevent Crypto and a range of other infectious scours.

HOW IT WORKS?

- CryptoShield prevents Crypto from latching on and completing its lifecycle in the gut.
- It greatly reduces the number of Crypto eggs excreted by the calf, reducing infectious load.
- Boosts immunity in young and vulnerable calves
- Strengthens and protects the villous lining of the calf's gut.

- Reduces the permeability of the gut to infection.
- Anti-inflammatory properties in the gut to reduce fluid loss and pain.
- Packed full of antioxidant effects to strengthen calf's defences.

GUT GUARD

New to the market, **Gut Guard Gel** is a unique, 100% natural, liquid feed supplement that has proven itself to be very successful in the American market. It is composed of tannic acid, tributyrin and charcoal which deliver a serious level of natural anti-pathogenic properties. **Gut Guard** is formulated to support all young animals in their first few days of

life by supporting their immune system and protecting their gut. It is also very useful in helping animal's deal with and recover from scour more rapidly.

Available in all of our branches in a 250ml bottle, to be fed 2-3 hours after the first colostrum feed.

BENEFITS OF GUT GUARD

- It can be fed as an immune support supplement to help stabilise the gut and overall health of a calf experiencing scour.
- It helps prevent pathogens such as Coccidiosis, Crypto, Clostridia and Ecoli attaching to the calves gut wall and gaining an infectious foothold.
- It promotes the development of healthy gut microbes and beneficial bacteria.
- Where and when pathogen do cause an infection and scour, Gut guard gel can help reduce the duration and severity of these scours.

