

Newsletter JULY 2023

GRENNAN
& SONS



WORMING PROGRAMMES FOR CALVES

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

First season dairy calves are among the most vulnerable animals on farms when it comes to internal parasites. This is due both to their naivety (no immunity/low exposure) and the fact that they will be more reliant on grass than suckler calves of the same age. It's important to bear this in mind as worm burden will be high after the recent rainfall in June. That said, overuse of worming products will slow the onset of the animal's own natural immunity to worms, as some exposure is required for this. Poor timing and usage will accelerate the rate of anthelmintic resistance development among worm populations. **It's recommended for calves to be at grass 4-6 weeks before their 1st treatment to allow for a chance to build up natural immunity through exposure.** Faecal egg counts should be carried out to determine exposure in advance of using products and close observation of calves for signs of coughing. **We can provide this service from all our branches and typically have results within 24-36 hrs of receiving faecal samples to provide you with specific advice for you farm.** Faecal egg counts generally don't give lungworm results unless specified, so talk to us/your vet if lungworm is a concern.

Grazing management can play a critical role in reducing worm pressure and the need for dosing as frequently. 'Clean' pasture is key, and ground grazed by sheep previously or co-grazing youngstock with sheep can contribute to lower burden. Studies have shown that Ivermectin resistance in gastrointestinal worm populations is increasing so it is important that we use them properly. On dairy farms, save Ivermectin for first season calves, if possible. Avoid underdosing – the main driver of resistance, by weighing calves and identifying the heaviest animal in the group. Ivermectin products like Acomec Injection or Pour On are a useful product for first season calves, as they have persistent

activity. Unlike wormers in the white (1-BZ) or yellow (2-LV) class, Ivermectins prevent reinfection of gut worms after dosing for a period (14-21 days depending on species). In the case of lungworm, Acomec prevents reinfection for 28 days post-treatment, while wormers in the other classes have zero residual coverage against any worms. However, if lungworm is a serious issue, it is best to use white or yellow drenches as the kill is slower and there is a lower risk of calves developing pneumonia which can occur with the sudden kill of a large lungworm burden. Follow up treatments with further analysis to ensure the class of wormer used is still effective on your farm as resistant worms will be passed back out onto fields. Other products worth considering are Dectomax and Cydectin Pour-on's and injectables, all of which have a dosing interval of 8-10 weeks. For season long control use the Cydectin 10% LA injection behind the ear. If pasture burden is low due to management, faecal egg counts are clear and animals are growing at a satisfactory rate, subsequent dosing may be unnecessary.

Other things to keep in mind for managing calves at grass for July

- Calves should be on a grazing rotation getting fresh grass every 3-4 days in covers of 1200-1300 kgs/DM/Ha (10-12 cm).
- Supplement calves with 1-2 kg of Early Graze Calf Nuts, specifically formulated for calves at grass to maintain optimum thrive and help avoid setbacks from Molybdenosis, Summer Scour Syndrome and CCN.
- Weigh heifer calves to ensure they are on target now, to maximise success at breeding next spring



We were all thrilled to win the Midlands 103 "Best Agricultural Supplier of the Year" award. Thank you so much to all our customers for making this possible and especially to any of you who voted for us. We really appreciate your support, and it means a lot to the entire team receiving this award. We hope we can continue to improve our level of service to all our valued customers into the future. Thank you to Midlands 103 for hosting an excellent awards programme and to you all again for everything.

MAINTAINING DAIRY HYGIENE AND MILK QUALITY PARAMETERS THIS SUMMER!

By Aisling Claffey – (B. Agr. Sc., PhD)
Tel: 086 031 7483

Many farmers will have successfully made the transition to managing milk quality in a chlorine-free environment, however, we still regularly come into contact with farmers struggling to manage TBC levels.

There are a number of factors which may result in poor efficacy of detergents or a breakdown in milk quality results:

1. Insufficient hot water – temperatures of 70-80 °C are required for effective cleaning, particularly as milk solids will begin to increase and milk volume dilutes over the coming months. Every 10 °C reduction in water temperature reduces its cleaning power by half. Many farms will have enough hot water for washing either the milking parlour or the bulk tank, but will struggle to do both effectively.
2. Circulation times – many of us are in the habit of completing other jobs like shutting out the cows while the detergent is circulating through the plant. However, once water temperature drops it begins to redeposit the material it has lifted in the lines! Circulate the wash for 8-10 minutes max. and ensure the water temperature has not dropped any lower than 50-55 °C.
3. Frequency of descaler – without the use of chlorine in our wash routines, descaling is more important than ever. Complete 2-3 descale washes per week to minimise scale deposits in the plant that can harbour bacteria.

Did you know Biocel now offer a full range of cold wash detergents (liquid and powder) for the milking parlour? This can limit your requirement for hot water for the milking parlour to two hot descale washes per week, ensuring that you have sufficient hot water for the bulk tank to help keep TBCs in check. If you have been having issues with milking parlour hygiene, get in touch with us, and in conjunction with Biocel we can devise a suitable recovery wash to correct on-going issues and get a program in place to maintain milk quality parameters in the future.

biocel.

Biocel Launch NEW Coldwash Cleaning Products for the 2023 Dairy Season

CirCool - Cold Wash Technology

Since the removal of Chlorine from milking plant detergents, many milk suppliers have faced ongoing challenges in achieving the required target temperatures for effective results from Chlorine Free products in the market. Due to temperature of the wash solution falling below target temperatures at the end of the hot wash cycle, this has resulted in formation of a fat/protein build up in plants, seen on Perspex components & Milk meters. This deposit when formed is very difficult to remove in a standard wash program and if not removed leads to a rise in TBC/ Thermoduric counts.

The other big advantage in using this cold wash program is that water heating costs can be reduced by up to 85 % along with CO2 emissions, which with current high energy costs and pressure on reduction of CO2 emissions is another bonus. CirCool P is a mixed alkaline powder with a high level of cleaning additives that can be used in manual systems and is available in 20kg packs. CirCool L is mixed alkaline liquid with a high level of cleaning additives that can be used in manual or auto wash systems and is available in 20/200/1000lt packs.



Biocel Ltd offer a full on support package for all our Dairy Hygiene & Teat Care products and are our Technical Team are available for Telephone & On Farm support by contacting James Taylor on 086-1304839

WINTER FODDER BUDGETS

By Brian Delaney - (B. Agri. Sc.) - 086 044 9592

Thankfully, rain has arrived to ease grass deficits on farms. Although there is plenty of time to recover fodder reserves for the winter, timely actions now could save costly actions later. It is vital to carry out a fodder budget to assess how much more silage is needed. To calculate how many tonnes of fresh weight silage are in the pit, multiply the length x width x average height in metres and divide by 1.35 (22% DM) or 1.5 (28% DM).

For Bales: multiply the number of bales by 0.75.

A guide to winter requirements is as follows:

	Tonnes/head/month
Suckler Cows	1.4
0-1 year olds	0.6
1-2 year olds	1.0
2+ year olds	1.25
Fattening Cattle on high concentrates	0.6

If your farm still has a shortfall of silage, after accounting for 6-7 tonnes of silage per acre from a second cut, an excellent strategy would be to apply fertiliser to the grazing platform immediately. This will take full advantage of current high soil temperatures, adequate moisture and long day length, maximising the return from this fertiliser application. This should give you an opportunity to fence off areas for surplus bales to be removed, which will also help to manage grass, improve pasture quality and ADG, whilst increasing fodder reserves. If you are still short of fodder and considering reseeding ground next spring, discuss options for fodder crops with our agronomy team. Crops such as redstart and rape can be used to outwinter and increase fodder availability and will also help maintain thrive in younger cattle!



CHECK OUT J GRENNAN & SONS FOR ALL YOUR BEEF FINISHING AND WEANLING NEEDS TO MAXIMISE ADG THIS AUTUMN!



HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?



GRENNAN'S ARE NOW STOCKING ORGANIC FEEDS – GET IN TOUCH FOR MORE INFORMATION!

COVER CROPS: HARNESS THEIR BENEFITS WISELY!

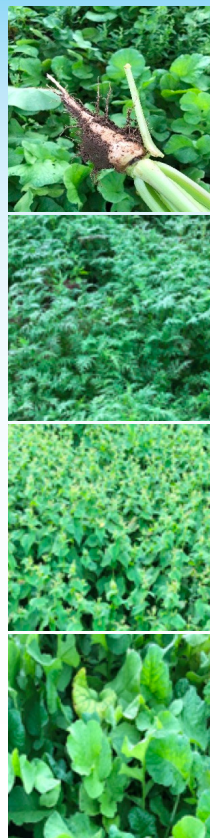
By Paul Mooney - (B. Agr. Sc.) - Tel: 086 3532342

- IMPROVED SOIL STRUCTURE • EROSION REDUCTION
- NITROGEN FIXATION • WEED SUPPRESSION

These are only a few of the merits of cover crops. You could clearly see during recent drought conditions that anywhere there was a well-established cover crop last winter, the current spring crop suffered much less during drought, and showed the promise of a much heavier yield this harvest as a result.

- Sow early, ASAP after crop removed.
- One day of growth in July could be better than the whole month of October. Once we move into September, will a cover crop pay for itself?
- It's for cover, no need to spend a fortune!
- Light cultivation with disc or grub, ideally with a seeder on back and roll after.
- May have to give volunteer cereals a light spray to keep them from over competing with the crop.

There are a few basic rules around cover crops that we must observe, or we could induce soil borne issues. If you are growing winter crops, cover crops may contribute some bit towards breaking the take-all cycle. If you have Oilseed Rape in rotation, avoid using Brassicas (Rape, Stubble Turnip, Radish, Mustard). If you have Beans in the rotation, avoid using Legumes (Vetch, Clover). Avoid cereals like Rye and Oats, because they can create soil borne issues for subsequent cereal crops. Phacelia, Buckwheat and Linseed are the only three cover crops that won't affect the subsequent crop in the rotation with increased disease burden. Once Brassicas establish, they grow rapidly. Legumes are very slow to mature and need to be sown early. We have a lot of experience over the years with cover crops so please talk to us to get what's best suited to your farm and your planned rotations.



NITROGEN FERTILISER OPTIONS – WHY UTILISE THE TERRA PRODUCT RANGE ON YOUR FARM?



FACTS: 1. We know, over several years of measured lab and farm trials, that the Terra range allows us use 20 – 25% less units of Nitrogen to achieve the same grass growth.

2. The products use to “protect” Urea from volatilisation losses, offer only a 5-7 day window of protection to the urea granule. Factors such as moisture availability, soil pH, soil texture, crop cover, can still play a massive role in determining losses of Urea Nitrogen to the atmosphere in the form of ammonia.

3. The true cost of Protected Urea vs CAN vs Terra CAN depends largely on what level of N volatilisation losses you assume the Urease inhibitor is preventing. See table below for details. Under current prices, it only takes a loss of 15% before Terra becomes the better option.

	%N	Approx Cost per Tonne (€)	Cost per 50 Kg Bag (€)	Cost per unit N (€)	Cost per acre of 40N	% of applied N that is assumed available for uptake	Units out of the 40N utilised	Cost per acre of 40 utilised units of N
27% CAN	27	375	18.75	0.69	28	100	40	28
46% Urea	46	450	22.5	0.49	20	60	24	33
Protected Urea	46	500	25	0.54	22	85	34	26
Terra Can	22	350	17.5	0.80	32	122.5	49	26

Remember: The Fertiliser Register is expected to be in operation for 2024. Be a step ahead of the curve, by getting 20 – 25% more growth from the Fertiliser N you apply and reduce the environmental impact of your farming practices without it costing you anything extra.

Consider Terra Fertiliser from Target.