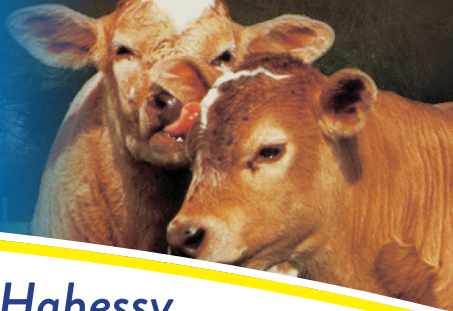


Newsletter AUGUST 2023

J GRENNAN
& SONS



In Loving Memory of Eamonn Hahessy

It is with heavy hearts that we pay tribute to our dear colleague and friend, Eamonn Hahessy, who passed away suddenly at the age of 84. Eamonn's journey with our company began in 1988, and from that day on, his impact on both the company and each of us individually was immeasurable.

Eamonn's remarkable career as a Teagasc Tillage and Horticulture Adviser in South Offaly during the 1970's and 80's left an indelible mark on the farming community. His dedication to educating and developing expertise among farmers for vegetable production not only allowed the Green Isle plant in Banagher to flourish but also saw Offaly vegetables being processed in factories nationwide. Thanks to Eamonn's influence and knowledge, the expertise in vegetable growing has been passed down through generations in Offaly, cementing his legacy as a true pioneer in the field.

In the mid 1980's, J Grennan & Sons as you know it today, was in its infancy. We were extremely fortunate to have Eamonn join us as our first Agronomist in 1988. His reputation as an Agronomist preceded him, and his presence in our fledgling business brought a wave of new customers to us when we really needed them, all of whom were seeking access to his invaluable expertise. Eamonn's arrival also paved the way for Grennan's to become a national hub for Field Beans, expanding our tillage customer base rapidly and leading us into seed production of both Field Beans and Cereals, both of which remain vital aspects of our business today. Furthermore, Eamonn's presence in the company, set a template of high standards for all those working alongside him

and drew in other young people into the company, who sought to learn from the best.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Eamonn was a genuine and caring friend to all of us. Even after his retirement, he continued to grace us with his presence almost every day, offering guidance and advice to everyone here. His unwavering commitment to the company even after his retirement showcased his dedication and passion for the work he loved. Eamonn's impact on our lives extended far beyond the workplace; he was a valued mentor to many, always there with a listening ear and a wise word.

As we bid farewell to Eamonn Hahessy, we remember him not only as an exceptional person, but also as a wonderful friend, a guiding light, and a source of inspiration. His passion for his work, his unwavering dedication, and his warm and caring nature will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Let us honour his memory by continuing to embrace the values he instilled in us and by cherishing the friendships we have forged along the way.

Rest in peace, Eamon, and know that your legacy will live on in our hearts forever.



NATIONAL FERTILISER REGISTER – COMING SOON!

Legislation for the National Fertiliser Register, that was due to be in place since January 2023, has recently come into effect. It is important to note that as of September 1st, 2023, to legally purchase fertiliser, farmers will have to register on the Department's AgFood portal. This facility is now available within the AgFood portal. In addition to this, a closing stock of fertiliser products on farm will be required on September 14th and farmers will have until October 15th to record this.

At merchant level, we will also have to register as a supplier of fertilisers and all fertiliser sales from September 1st will have to be recorded on the DAFM register, with each sale being linked to the farmer's herd number, with the product and quantity sold recorded. From September 1st, we will need all customers to have registered, in addition to requiring your herd number for delivery and invoicing (if you have not already provided it for the purchase of Agri-Chemicals). If a farmer has not registered, we will no longer be allowed to provide him with fertiliser products. All merchant holdings must also submit a closing stock on September 30th, in addition to the record of all sales in the month of September. Therefore, DAFM will have a record of all fertiliser purchases linked to individual herd numbers from September 1st, 2023. We urge all our customers to take heed of these dates so that we can continue to accommodate them from September 1st.

MAKING THE BEST USE OF LATE LACTATION, TO PREPARE FOR NEXT SPRING!

By Aisling Claffey - (B. Agri. Sc., Ph. D.) – Tel: 086 031 7483

As silage season gradually comes to a close, delayed by the extremes in both dry and wet conditions, and we start to build cover for autumn grazing it is important to start thinking about preparations for next spring. Delayed and low dry matter second cuts may look considerably bulky in pits, but both quality and intake parameters are likely to be affected. After ensuring you have sufficient quantities of silage in the yard for the coming winter, it is essential to analyse the silage for quality and mineral content to determine if adequate BCS gains can be achieved (68 DMD silage ad-lib for 8-10 weeks at BCS 2.75+) during the dry period and that there is no antagonistic challenges arising, particularly those associated with Calcium metabolism in cows close to calving (high K/ high DCAB silages).

Many farmers may have felt that BCS has slipped in recent weeks, due in part to nitrogen levels increasing in the plant (takes more energy to excrete), and low DM grass not offering the same feed value or fill effect. Now is the ideal

time to complete a full herd scan if not already done and ascertain accurate dry off days for cows. Body condition scoring of the herd should also be completed, particularly to identify those cows that are too thin or are too fat, to take corrective action as these are the most likely animals in your herd to have metabolic issues during the transition period next spring. Cows are typically more efficient at putting on condition in late lactation than while dry, so placing thin cows on once a day for the autumn could have a more positive effect than allowing individual cows a longer dry period.

We are regularly called into 'firefight' in situations during the transition period or issues from last spring often come up in discussions around current herd performance and fertility issues observed.

Now is the time to proactively put the wheels in motion to prepare for next spring so feel free to contact myself or any member of the team to discuss this in further detail!

VACCINATION PROGRAMMES FOR CALVES

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

In preparation for autumn, it is essential to ensure vaccination programs have been completed or are in place to minimise disease risk and maximise thrive over the winter months. Clostridia vaccines (Covexin 10, Tribovax 10) should be up to date on most farms at this stage, for calves/weanlings. They consist of 2 vaccines 4-6 weeks apart by subcutaneous injection. Ideally administered to young animals under 6 months of age and they provide up to 12 months protection. At 12 months a booster injection is required. Clostridia vaccines give broad spectrum protection against 10 clostridial diseases such as blackleg, tetanus, black disease, braxy, pulp kidney etc.

If pneumonia has been an issue on farm in the past, now is the time to consult your vet in relation to putting a Pneumonia vaccination programme in place. Pneumonia is one of the main problems on farms rearing young cattle and is the **number one cause of death** in cattle of all ages over one month old.

Pneumonia can be caused by viruses, bacteria or even parasites such as Lungworm. It is a multifactorial disease with common stressors such as changeable/inclément weather, dehorning, castration, transport, housing, poor plain of nutrition, poor ventilation, overcrowding etc. all potentially contributing to or increasing the risk of disease outbreak.

While a good vaccination programme is important, the management of the weanlings is equally as important over the Autumn period and both work hand in hand. Ensure that there's a good worming programme in place as lungworm can damage the lungs and increase the risk and severity of pneumonia. Treat for lungworm 4-5 weeks ahead of housing with a persistent dose such as Cydectin, Dectomax or Ivomec. This allows time for the dead worms to be coughed up while the animals are still at grass and the lungs can fully recover from the lungworm damage. When they are housed, they will have a clean healthy set of lungs to fight the dust and the viral infections they may encounter in the shed.

Ensure there is sufficient good quality grass available for the coming months by maintaining a paddock rotation, building grass covers as growth declines, utilising after grass after second cut silage to increase the area available for grazing and aim to provide access to shelter for younger cattle. Meal supplementation is particularly beneficial in autumn as the dry matter of grass reduces, particularly in wet weather, resulting in a lower concentration of nutrients available from grass. Our Super Weanling Crunch is available with our Lungbooster additive to help weanlings clear airways in advance of housing.



MANAGING INTENSIVELY FED SHEEP

By **Tim Guinan** - (B. Agri. Sc.) – Tel: 087 257 3368

We are about to head into another store lamb feeding season and in a few short months we will be heading into another lambing season. While the risk of both Copper Toxicity and Urinary Calculi occurring in sheep is ever present, the store lamb finishing and lambing seasons tend to be more problematic in this regard. Thankfully, cases are extremely rare, but that said, virtually every mill in the country has had cases reported to it over the years, and Urinary Calculi in particular, appears to be on the rise in recent years. This is quite concerning for sheep farmers because it can result in expensive losses if it occurs. It is also quite concerning for us as feed suppliers because the tendency has been to assume the feed is always at fault and therefore, the feed mill should be fully accountable for losses incurred when cases arise.

The fact of the matter is that both conditions are multifactorial. So, while it is fair to say, that many problems tend to be associated (although not always) with the more intensive/long-term feeding of concentrates to sheep, there are many other contributory factors for both conditions, that are totally outside of the feed supplier's control and for which the farmer must take responsibility.

These include:

- Feeding rates
- Duration of feeding period
- Feeding space & feed management
- Nutritional history

- Breed & Age of the sheep
- Housing conditions
- Water access & quality
- Forage mineral balance
- The presence/absence of stress factors & disease

So, our position in J Grennan & Sons is that as the feed supplier, we should not be automatically deemed accountable for financial losses if cases occur. While the feed and its manufacturing process are obviously very important, all the other factors mentioned above are equally, if not more important. Consequently, they need to be very carefully assessed and managed correctly by the farmer, every time concentrates are introduced to sheep. This is particularly important for the more intensive/indoor lamb finishers and/or those feeding high value pedigree breeding stock. We are happy to advise and support any customer in this regard.

J Grennan & Sons will, as always, continue to go to great rounds using the most up to date feed additives, formulation expertise and manufacturing practices to prevent both Copper Toxicity and Urinary Calculi in sheep and do all we can to keep cases to an absolute minimum. We believe our track record in this regard is second to none and we are very proud of that. Should an issue ever arise on your farm, we will do everything we can to work with you and find the real source of the problem, but we refuse to be held accountable by default, for losses incurred.



J GRENNAN & SONS

An ideal follow on to our Calf Crunch or Nut range to maintain thrive in weanlings over the autumn months.

A balanced 16% protein mix utilising beans and cereals to maximise energy intake, supporting growth and performance.

A 0.5 reduction in UFL (energy) intake can reduce ADG by 200g/day so ensure your weanlings continue on the right track this winter.

Also available in bags with the Lungbooster additive to maximise respiratory health!

COVER CROPS: HARNESS THEIR BENEFITS WISELY!

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

Winter Barley has been good with yields ranging from 3.4 to 4.4 tpa. Spring Barley has picked up a lot since it got the rain and could surprise us. It looks like there's a lot of green patches and bit of secondary tillering, so uneven ripening and green grains will possibly be an issue in these crops, in addition to significant lodging on headlands and in areas where nitrogen was lapped. Did we get greedy when crops didn't look well, not thinking that when rain did come, it would all be taken up?

Winter Wheat looks well but Septoria levels are high and were hard to control, which proves the massive loss of Bravo to the industry. Even though Beans suffer badly in drought, they look to be a good crop with low disease levels. There also appears to be bumper crops of both maize and beet. Locally beet crops met in the rows by June 10th, and it is always said that if beet is met in rows by the longest day of year it will be an excellent crop. Hopefully, weather conditions will improve to ensure optimum cob development on maize crops!

The below tables detail some of the cover crop mixtures available to order, in addition to the benefits the individual species offer to the soil or subsequent crop. It is important to note that most of these straights and mixes will need to be ordered in advance, so please get in touch to discuss your requirements as soon as possible, to maximise opportunity for growth and reap the full reward of your cover crop!

Product	Contains	Acres /pack	Approx € /acre
Soil Booster Graze	6 kg Forage Rape & 10 kg Leafy Turnip	5	11
Soil Booster Pro	18 kg Vetch & 3 kg Phacelia	3.75	17.50
Soil Booster Plus	6 kg Tillage Radish, 2 kg Phacelia & 2 kg Forage Rape	5	18
Soil Booster Max	5 kg Tillage Radish, 1kg of Phacelia and 19 kg of Vetch	2.5	28

Crop	Seed rate (kg/ ac)	€/ac	Comment
Forage Rape	3	9.60	Provides quick cover with good rooting ability with the potential for grazing. Don't use if growing OSR or fodder crops
Leafy Turnip	3	15.30	Grows a small bulb turnip like typhon which farmers believe provides a good thrive in stock. Don't use if growing OSR or fodder crops
Mustard	3	11	Very fast growing and suitable for sowing between winter barley/oat harvesting and sowing of another winter crop. If let grow during winter, it can get wirey and will then have to be mulched. Don't use if growing OSR or fodder crops
Radish	3	17.70	Excellent aid in alleviating soil compaction as deep rooting. Don't use if growing OSR or fodder crops
Vetch	6	14.77	Don't use if Beans are in rotation. Vetch is a legume and therefore will fix nitrogen at low temp over winter.
Phacelia	3	20	Excellent scavenger for nutrients. Produces a nice purple flower over winter period. Not related to any crops we typically grow, so won't create any rotational or soil borne issues.
Buckwheat	20	40	Good scavenger for nutrients and can grow very quickly. Not related to any crops we typically grow, so won't create any rotational or soil borne issues.

RATH
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC
057 91 35004

TINNYCROSS
057 93 25500

MOATE
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT
090 64 36358

MOYVORE
044 93 55593