

# Newsletter OCTOBER 2023

**J GRENNAN**  
& SONS



## Slurry Boost

By *Stephanie Costello - (B.Bus(Hons))*  
Tel: 086 895 8925

### WHAT IS SLURRY BOOST?

- Slurry Boost is a source of live bacteria that increases the nutritive value of your slurry.

### HOW DOES SLURRY BOOST WORK?

- The live bacteria in Slurry Boost and feed off the toxic ammonia and other gases in the slurry. In so doing they multiply and die, therefore converting toxic gases such as ammonia into soil and plant friendly microbial nitrogen.

### WHAT DOES IT DO?

- Increases the fertiliser value by the equivalent of 0.5 bag C.A.N to the acre (2500 gals of slurry).
- Liquefies the slurry.

### WHY USE IT?

- We find that every 2500 gals of slurry treated with Slurry boost, delivers an extra 12 to 15 units of N.

*This is equivalent to an extra half bag of 27% CAN per 2500 gals. Half bag of C.A.N costs approx. €10 per acre. 2500 gallons of treated slurry costs €5. So your Return on Investment is 2:1 ...& this from increased N value of your slurry alone*

- Decreases agitation time by up to 50%.
- Reduces toxicity. Normal slurry is a toxic material that with continuous use, reduces the biological life in the soil and damages soil health. Slurry boost makes slurry far less toxic & improves soil health.
- Once off application per tank.
- Great value at €2 per 1000 gallons of slurry.

# IT'S TIME TO INOCULATE YOUR TANKS.

## 'IT MAKES PERFECT CENTS'

*1kg Treats 100,000 Gallons*

**DO YOU NEED MORE FROM YOUR SLURRY?**

## SLURRY BOOST



**Easy Once Off  
Application**

**More Grass with  
Less Fertiliser**

**Decreased  
Agitation Time**

**3:1 Return  
on Investment**



For more information contact any of our Nugget Stockists  
Tel: 057 9133002 | [www.grennans.ie](http://www.grennans.ie)



## TRIED & TESTED INOCULANT

RATH  
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC  
057 91 35004

TINNYCROSS  
057 93 25500

MOATE  
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT  
090 64 36358

MOYVORE  
044 93 55593

# Guidelines When Including Maize Silage in Beef Diets

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

Due to a 24% increase in maize acreage in 2023, there will be a lot more maize silage going into beef diets this winter. If you are substituting maize silage for grass silage, the following guidelines should be considered:

**LOW IN PROTEIN:** Maize silage is only 9% protein and will need to be balanced when feeding to all classes of stock with a high protein balancer ration. Often maize and grass silage will be mixed to help reduce the amount of additional protein needed. It is not an ideal forage for young stock or stores as they have a high requirement for protein, and the high starch will tend to over-condition rather than grow young stock.

**HIGH IN ENERGY:** Maize silage helps to increase feed intake and is also a high energy feed, so it is excellent source of forage for finishing diets. If you have limited amounts of maize silage on the farm, it should be prioritised for the finishing cattle. If feeding to dry cows, it is particularly important to restrict intake, supplement protein and monitor body condition.

**HIGH IN STARCH:** If you include other sources of starch/sugars such as cereal grains or fodder beet, the diet must be carefully balanced since the maize forage is already adding starch.

**HIGH IN FIBRE:** Maize silage is a particularly good source of fibre, so there is no need to include additional straw for proper rumen function.

**LOW IN CALCIUM & PHOSPHORUS:** A Specifically formulated Hi-Phos mineral such as our Rumen Boost Hi-Phos is needed to balance maize silage.

If you would like help in balancing any winter diets, please call into any of our branches or phone your local Greennans rep.



## SUPER WEANLING CRUNCH

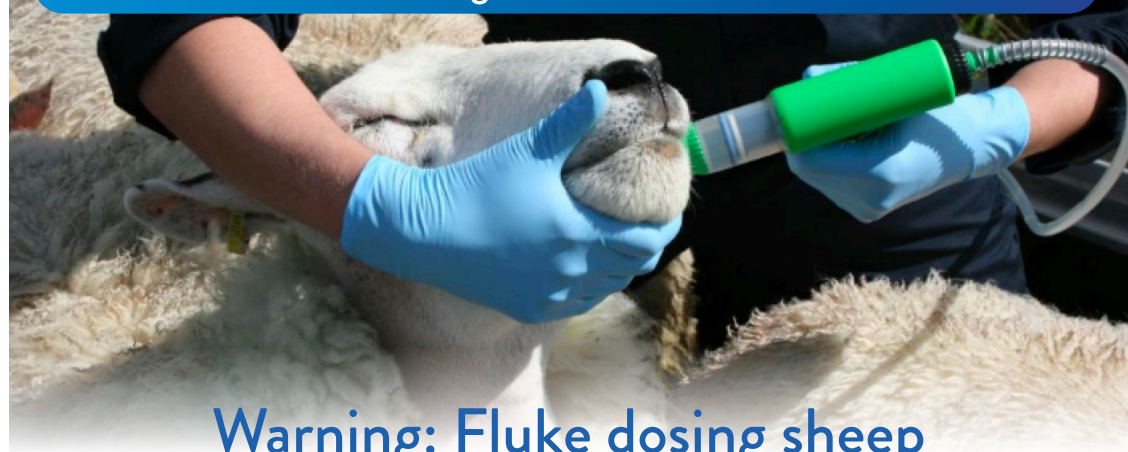


- This coarse ration is ideal for delivering high growth rates in strong calves & weanlings 5 to 12mths and older
- 16% crude protein, Over 50% Cereal + Rolled Beans.
- Very palatable – young stock will take to it quickly
- Will drive on muscle and skeletal growth, especially in higher growth potential animals such as continental type bull weanlings
- Contains \*Greennans Bovine + Yeassac Beef Mineral & Vitamin pack to supply all essential minerals and vitamins required to support rapid growth of muscle and bone

Also available with LungBooster.



Wide range of dosing product are available in store or online at [www.greennansonline.ie](http://www.greennansonline.ie)



## Warning: Fluke dosing sheep

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

Due to predominantly wet weather conditions over the past few months, sheep farmers can't become complacent when it comes to protecting their flock from liver fluke.

In recent years we have witnessed increased levels of anthelmintic resistance on many sheep farms. Farmers are advised to dung sample several sheep to check the efficiency of the product used on their farm. This should be done both before dosing and again 3 weeks after dosing. The same sheep should be tested each time to get an accurate reading.

• **Acute fluke** occurs because of large numbers of immature flukes burrowing through the sheep's liver and can lead to sudden death.

• **Chronic fluke** arises due to more long-term exposure to infective larvae. The fluke develops in the liver and bile ducts and cause damage to the liver as well as feeding on blood. Clinical signs of chronic fluke include anaemia and loss of condition.

• **Flukicides** are divided into **6 groups** according to their active ingredient, as outlined in table below.

**Triclabendazole** is the only group that has activity against early immature fluke. However there have been cases of resistance to these products. **Closantel**, **Nitroxinil**, and **Rafoxanide** are also active against immature fluke over 6 weeks old. Products containing **Oxyclozanide** and **Albendazole** are only active against adult fluke.

If diagnosis indicates a large presence of immature fluke you need to treat with a product effective against immature stages. The best option here is the use of a Triclabendazole product (Tribex or Endofluxe). If the problem is thought to be mature fluke, sheep may benefit from a dose effective against adult fluke - rafoxanide (Ranide). to 15%.

It's of vital importance that your replacement heifers meet their target weights and where animals are behind target feed 1-2 kgs of meal to help close the gap, particularly where silage quality isn't sufficient to support weight gain during the housed period.

Table 1: Adapted from presentation by B. Good, Teagasc, Athenry, October 2009

Flukicide (Active Ingredient)	Liver-fluke stage of development in weeks													
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Albendazole									50-70%		80-99%			
Oxyclozanide									50-90%		90-99%			
Nitroxinil									50-90%		90-99%			
Rafoxanide									50-90%		90-99%			
Closantel			23-73%		91%		91-95%		97-100%					
Triclabendazole	90-99%												99-99.9%	



# Autumn Sowing Options and Seed Availability

By Paul Mooney - (B. Agr. Sc.) - Tel: 086 353 2342

It's time to draw a line under 2023 harvest year, and plan for 2024. The good news is that costs are back on this time last year and if grain prices remain at current levels, for next year then at least 2024 is looking a little bit better than this year. Nitrogen this time last year was approaching €800/t, it's now currently under €400/t. Seed is back almost €100/t and chemicals prices have also eased a little.

## APPROXIMATE VARIABLE INPUT COSTS PER ACRE

Year	Winter Barley	Spring Barley	Winter Wheat	Spring Wheat	Winter Oats	Spring Oats	Spring Beans
Autumn 2022	647	497	722	584	490	408	333
Autumn 2023	391	301	454	355	307	264	291

### What to sow?

The 3-crop rule is back even though it makes very little sense. It creates a lot of inefficiencies throughout the whole grain industry.

Watch rotation. Take-all is the main issue, and it effects both Winter Wheat & Winter Barley. After grass, you get 2 years Take-all free. It then begins to rise in severity after year 2 and peaks in years 3,4 & 5. After that it begins to decline in severity if you maintain a continuous cereal rotation. After

a break crop (Beet, Beans, Maize, Oats) you get 1 year Take-all free. Sowing early, (before October 1st) increases the risk of Take-all gaining a foothold as does sub optimal soil fertility. Early sowing is also riskier from a BYDV point of view. If you are in doubt about rotation, talk to us.

In order, to justify the extra cost of growing winter cereals over their spring equivalent, you must be confident of getting an extra tonne of grain per acre. On good land, with excellent husbandry. Spring barley can yield over 3tonne per acre ... can you get 4t per acre or more???

## Maintaining Udder Health in Late Lactation

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

Drying off cows is one of the biggest jobs in the winter calendar and with housing on the cards, it is important that cubicle hygiene and milking routine are properly maintained to minimise the risk of new infections in late lactation. Pre-dipping and cleaning of teats can reduce the incidence of both environmental pathogens and high thermodynamic counts.

The following factors should be considered for incorporating Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT) into your routine this winter:

- Bulk tank average below 200 each month for the year
- A minimum of 4 milk recordings for all cows, ideally up to 6 – to ensure a healthy udder throughout lactation
- Good records – all clinical cases and treatments recorded, and ideally collect samples in early lactation and freeze to identify causative bacteria in the event of a severe outbreak
- Final milk recording within 30 days of drying off and California Milk Test to ensure no recent infection in those cows not receiving antibiotic treatment for the dry period as additional security measure
- The last milk recording is now considered to be one of the most crucial factors for SDCT with recent research suggesting that heifers should have an SCC below 60, while 2nd lactation animals and over should have a SCC of 100 or lower at this point to be suitable for SDCT

Consider culling persistently infected cows that have had multiple cases of mastitis in a year, especially those cows that have had high SCCs in previous lactation. These cows are likely to have poor response to antibiotics and harbour infection over the dry cow period, increasing the risk of new infection to other cows in early lactation when the immune system is suppressed.

We see our Immuno products fed via one of our dairy nuts (even at half rate) as having tremendous potential to improve udder health in the later stages of lactation. They should enable you to get those SCC's down under 100 and enable wider use of SDCT in your herd. This approach is worth looking at given the dramatic effects we have seen on SCC's when feeding Immuno products in the diet.

