

# Newsletter JANUARY 2024



Happy New Year

## REDUCE ANTIBIOTIC USAGE THIS SPRING

### USING GRENNANS ULTIMATE CALF PACKAGE

By Joe Naughton - (B.Agr.Sc)

Tel: 086 145 2586

Calf rearing presents a huge challenge on the majority of farms. Bearing that in mind, here at Grennans we have developed a range of products with natural health enhancing properties that can really help you both prevent and reduce the severity of many of the most costly calf health issues on your farm. These products include milk replacers, calf feeds and even an oral gel (Gut Guard). We have seen these products being very effective in reducing the need for antibiotic usage on farms.

**WONDER THRIVE WITH LUNGBOOSTER+** contains Pulmosure to maintain a healthy respiratory system. Pulmosure breaks down the mucous that builds up inside infected airways and rapidly expels it from the lungs and the nasal passages. This cleansing of the airways greatly reduces the risk of pneumonia developing and/or the severity of it when it does occur. Wonder Thrive with LungBooster+ also contains the essential oil EMX for the nutritional maintenance of a healthy digestive system which helps prevent and reduce the risk of Cryptosporidium and Coccidiosis. Together they form a very effective barrier against the two most common calf ailments i.e pneumonia & scour.

**WONDER THRIVE WITH GUT GUARD** contains a completely different natural feed additive that has been found to deliver dramatic health benefits to calves particularly in terms of preventing calf scours. Gut Guard helps prevent pathogens such as Cryptosporidium, Clostridia, E.coli and Coccidiosis attaching to the gut wall and creating an infectious foothold. Where scours do occur Gut Guard reduces the duration and severity of these scours.

**GUT GUARD GEL** is a 250ml starter and recovery gel pack. It is designed to be fed 2-3 hours after the first colostrum feed to all new born animals i.e calves, lambs and piglets. It lines the gut wall of these animals and forms a very effective natural barrier against scour causing pathogens. It also tightens the gut wall junctions making it much more difficult for these pathogens to latch on to/or penetrate it. It fits in to the same slot in which the widely used antibiotic Spectam was used before being taken off the market and our experience with it to date is that it seems to work every bit as effective in most cases.

**IMMUNO CALF NUTS** This contains a natural feed additive which makes the white blood cells in the calf's blood much more aggressive and effective in terms of their ability to fight pathogens, thereby making your calves much more resistant to all forms of disease. Immuno calf nuts are particularly suitable for calves in high stress situations such as those on Once-A-Day milk feeding systems, in poor housing conditions and/or calves that have been in transit/bought in etc.

**J GRENNAN & SONS CALF JACKETS** Calf jackets can make significant savings on feed, medication and bedding costs, by enabling better feed conversion of energy to growth rather than to body heat. Warmer calves are also much less susceptible to pneumonia and scours from chills and draughts. Our Calf Jackets now have new elasticated belly & leg straps making them much more comfortable for the calf and longer lasting. Available in both blue and pink. \*With every purchase of a pink Calf Jacket, €2 is donated to Breast Cancer Ireland.



### WHAT THE FARMERS SAY

*"On a busy farm you need trouble-free calves and that's what we get since we started using WonderThrive with Gut Guard."*

Pdraig & Alan Gilligan  
of Gilligan Farm Fresh Meats,  
Four Mile House,  
Co. Roscommon.



# FEEDING MANAGEMENT AND REQUIREMENTS OF PREGNANT EWES

By *Damien Conboy* – (B.Agr.Sc) Tel: 087 212 4036

It is important to start feeding ewes carrying triplets before you intend to start feeding the rest of the flock. With moderate quality forage farmers should aim to start feeding triplet-bearing ewes a small amount of concentrates (approximately 0.2kg per head per day) from about 10 weeks prior to lambing. Offering ewes the correct plane of nutrition during mid and late pregnancy ensures adequate supply of colostrum post lambing and produces lambs close to optimum birth weight, consequently reducing mortality and increasing flock performance and profitability.

In the last 7 weeks of pregnancy 75% of foetal growth occurs. Ewes carrying two lambs with an expected lamb birth weight of 5kg each will see her energy requirements almost double from seven weeks pre-lambing to lambing time. In the last 3-4 weeks of pregnancy the ewe's protein requirements will also almost double, rising to 200g per day to meet the demands of the rapidly growing foetus. Once concentrate feeding level goes above 500g/day, definitely consider splitting the feed. This will reduce the risk of digestive upset such as acidosis and stimulate silage intake.

It is worth noting that ewe's milk is 20% dry matter and young lambs can convert 1kg of milk solids into 1kg of live weight gain. This means that for every 5 litres of milk produced by the ewe and consumed by the lamb, the lamb will gain 1kg live weight. This fact clearly underlines the importance of feeding a quality sheep ration or nut that will meet the energy and protein requirements of ewes in late pregnancy.

*Choose Grennan's Cubed or Coarse Ewe & Lamb diets this season for best possible colostrum, milk yield & lamb health.*



**GRENNAN**  
& SONS

# GUT GUARD CALF & LAMB STARTER & RECOVERY GEL



By *Stephanie Costello*

(B.Bus(Hons)) – Tel: 086 895 8925

Gut Guard is specifically designed to be fed 2-3 hours after the first colostrum feed. It lines the gut and forms a highly effective, totally natural barrier to many diseases of the gut. It also has astringent properties meaning it tightens up the gut wall, making it much more difficult for pathogens to gain a foothold for infection.

It will not alone help prevent infection but is also very useful in helping animal's deal with and recover from gut infections (scour) more rapidly. **Available in all of our branches** in a 250ml handy dose bottle.

## REMEMBER:

- Gut Guard is most effective when fed within the first few hours of life.
- Gut Guard is a highly effective preventative measure against many of the most common scour causing pathogens including Coccidiosis, Crypto, Clostridia and E.coli.
- Gut Guard promotes the development of a healthy gut microflora.
- Gut Guard gel will help to reduce the duration and severity of many scours.

# MANAGEMENT OF THE DRY COW TO IMPROVE COLOSTRUM QUALITY

By **Brian Delaney** - (B.Agr.Sc)

Tel: 086 044 9592

The adoption of a few important management strategies for the dry cow in the last 4 weeks pre-calving can have huge benefits in terms of calf health and costs. These benefits can be achieved through higher quality colostrum as a result of the following actions:

- Vaccinations given to the cow, 3 to 12 weeks pre-calving against rotavirus and coronavirus will increase anti-bodies in the colostrum to give protection to the new-born calf.
- Protein and amino acids are required to produce colostrum. The supplementation of protein in the form of 0.2 - 0.4kg/hd/day of hi-pro soya in the last 4 weeks before calving will help to boost both the quality and quantity of colostrum. The level of supplementation will vary depending on the protein levels already in the diet from silage. Higher levels will be needed if feeding low protein feeds such as straw.
- Feeding a high quality pre-calver mineral (such as Grennan's Elite Pre Calver or Grennan's Immuno Pre Calver Mineral) also contains high levels of magnesium, protected copper and zinc are important for metabolic processes before and after calving. Good levels of antioxidants such as vitamin E and Selplex (protected selenium) have a direct effect on the quality of the antibodies in the colostrum
- Trial results have shown that feeding our Immuno additive to dry cows has resulted in 64% of cows having high quality colostrum compared to only 26% of cows in the untreated group. This demonstrates that this Immuno additive helps to strengthen the cow's immune system, resulting in higher antibodies for her calf, and improving her own reproductive performance by helping to heal herself and start cycling in a shorter timeframe after calving.

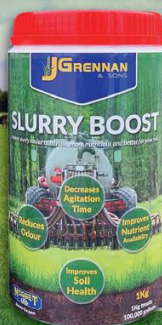
# IT'S TIME TO INOCULATE YOUR TANKS.

## '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

### WHAT THE FARMERS SAY

"Since we started using Grennan's Slurry Boost, we have definitely been able to make significant savings on fertiliser costs. We seem to be getting away with at least a half bag of Nitrogen per acre less on our first cut silage. We are also seeing greatly decreased agitation time and soil health seems to be improving across the farm. I think Slurry Boost is very good value for money and I intend to continue using it for the foreseeable future."



*Louise Young Bawnogue  
Dairy Farm,  
Rathdowney, Co Laois.*

# UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE OF CALCIUM METABOLISM

*By Aisling Claffey - (B. Agri. Sc., Ph. D.) Tel: 086 0317483*

Calcium is one of the most important elements supporting a successful transition to early lactation, as it plays an important role in muscle function and immune function. The mobilisation of Calcium is under strict physiological control, but the pathways involved can be easily impeded. Understanding these pathways and the factors that affect them can help not only to reduce the incidences of milk fever within your herd, but also minimise the risk of sub-clinical milk fever and the host of metabolic disorders that can arise as a result of it.

There are a number of animal factors that increase the risk of poor Calcium metabolism that will be familiar to most: lactation (typically 4th plus), yield (higher volumes of milk lead to increased demand for Ca at calving), breed and poor BCS (too high, 3.5+, or too low,  $\leq 2.75$ ). Colostrum production stimulates an increase in demand for Calcium, initially being pulled from the small amount circulating in blood plasma. The cow can mobilise up to 20% of the Calcium stored in her bones, stimulated by the Parathyroid hormone (PTH). However, all of the pathways stimulated by PTH to mobilise Calcium are dependent on Magnesium, making it one of the most critical supplements of the dry cow diet. Unknown to us if not completing silage mineral analysis, our silage can affect both the efficacy of the PTH and the absorption of Magnesium, by a combination of being high in Potassium and/or high DCAB. If this is the

case, a well-balanced pre-calving supplement like Grennan's Elite or Immuno Pre-calver mineral may not be sufficient. Other forms of Magnesium supplementation such as Mag Chloride in the final two weeks before calving, will not only increase the amount of Mg fed, but also have an acidifying effect on the diet, counteracting high DCAB values in the forage fed, allowing for improved function of the PTH and improved Ca mobilisation.

Sub-clinical milk fever can give rise to a host of issues, resulting from impaired Calcium mobilisation. Muscle function plays an important role in calving, with a higher risk of a slow or difficult calving and retained cleanings if impaired. Rumen function is also critical to maintain DMI, which is limited at the point of calving. Maintaining good rumen function will minimise the severity and duration of negative energy balance in lactation and ensure optimum gut fill. Rumen function and intake are essential to minimise the risk of excessive BCS loss, metabolic disorders and the risk of displaced abomasum. Similarly, the udder can be more exposed to dirt and bacteria if teat end function is impaired. It's not too late to get information on your silage mineral content. Should you have any concerns about milk fever risks and mgmt. within your own herd in preparation for calving next February, get in touch with a member of our technical team today!

## EVERY COW DESERVES A REVIVA DRINK AFTER CALVING.

Reviva contains all the electrolytes, calcium and energy she needs to quickly rehydrate and restore her energy and blood calcium levels after calving. This ensures she gets the best possible start to her lactation.



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