

Newsletter MARCH



2024



SPRING DELIVERIES

– HELP US HELP YOU!

Due to the late spring and the low level of activity in the fertiliser market to date, we are expecting huge pressure to come on our delivery services over the next few weeks. So, we are asking for your co-operation with delivery order sizes and order frequencies. We ask that you;

1. Please place delivery orders as early as possible to allow us have stock ready & to plan delivery routes & associated back loads etc as efficiently as possible.
2. Make a special effort to make your delivery order sizes as big as possible. It always makes a lot more sense, if we can do one delivery every month or two, rather than going back with smaller drops every week or two. Remember, all our feedstuffs have a 90-day expiry period from the date of manufacturing, and it generally leaves our yard within a week or so of its manufactured date, so there will be no problem with shelf life when you get bigger deliveries.

Let us also emphasise that while every customer's business and custom is greatly appreciated, we are encouraging larger delivery sizes in the form of a haulage rebate. This haulage rebate will be put towards your account depending on total tonnage delivered at one time. Haulage rebates are applied as per the adjoining table.

| *Total Tonnage Delivered | Haulage Rebate allowable per tonne |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1.5 to 3 | 0 |
| 3 to 3.99 | € 3 per tonne |
| 4 to 4.99 | € 4 per tonne |
| 5 to 5.99 | € 5 per tonne |
| 6 to 6.99 | € 6 per tonne |
| 7 to 7.99 | € 7 per tonne |
| 8 to 8.99 | € 8 per tonne |
| 9 to 9.99 | € 9 per tonne |
| 10t or more | € 10 per tonne |

*Combined tonnage of Feed, Seed & Fertiliser

So, not alone is any extra effort you can make regarding deliveries greatly appreciated by our drivers and transport team, it will also benefit your pocket. Finally, thanks for your continued custom and rest assured, we will be working very hard and doing our utmost to ensure you get all your feed, seed and fertiliser requirements in good time.



USING LIME TO IMPROVE GRASS SWARDS & REDUCE REQUIREMENTS FOR PHOSPHORUS FERTILISER

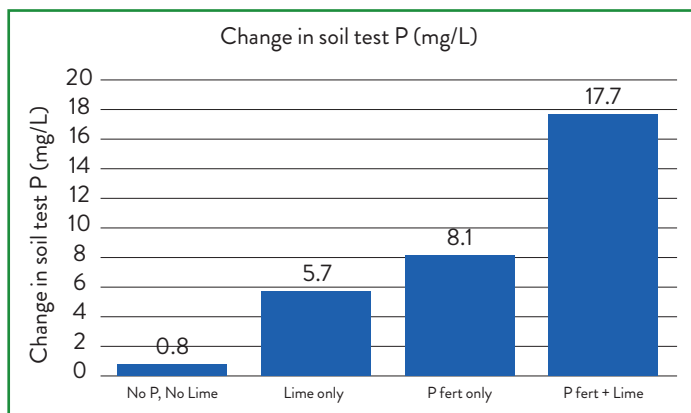
By Brian Delaney - (B.Agr.Sc) – Ph: 086 044 9592

Phosphate (P) is a critical nutrient that is needed to produce a grass sward with a good root mass and a good tillering capacity. Environmental regulations are placing ever tightening restrictions on the use of P fertilisers, so we need to look at ways of making best use of our soil P reserves. Soil pH is a major factor in helping to maximise the efficiency of any phosphorus that is applied to land, so spreading lime to ensure a pH of at least 6.3 for grassland is the most cost-effective solution to raising soil P levels.

| PH of soil | Phosphorus availability |
|------------|-------------------------|
| 6.5 | 100% |
| 6.0 | 52% |
| 5.5 | 48% |

See graph from Teagasc Johnstown castle showing the dramatic effect that correcting soil pH (by spreading lime) can have on improving soil P levels.

PLEASE NOTE that the benefits of applying lime are only applicable to low pH soils. Where soil pH is above 7, there would be a negative effect on P availability by applying lime.



IMMUNIGY TEST INTERPRETATION GUIDELINES

By Shane Gonoude - (B.Agr.Sc.,M.Agr.Sc) – Ph: 087 646 6707

We recently introduced the new Immunoglobulin (IgG) calf blood testing service available at J Grennan & Sons. The results obtained can be interpreted as per the guidelines on the table below.

It has been proven beyond doubt that the long term performance of a calf is highly related to the immunoglobulin levels in calves up to 42 days of age. Data from animals between 14 and 42 days of age showed that animals of adequate IgG status (amber and green range), demonstrated much improved daily liveweight gains (up to 11%) and much reduced (up to 46%) antibiotic usage when as compared to those calves found to have inadequate IgG's (red range)

| Age range | RED | AMBER | GREEN |
|---------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| 2 to 14 days | <10 mg/ml | 10-15 mg/ml | >15 mg/ml |
| 14 to 42 days | <7.5 mg/ml | 7.5 – 12.5 mg/ml | >12.5 mg/ml |

GREEN The goal should always be to obtain 'Green status' indicating that the calf has received sufficient, high-quality colostrum in the correct time frame associated with excellent colostrum management. Animals of optimum IgG status will perform better both in the short and long term which is critical for welfare, sustainability, and profitability.

AMBER Animals of 'Amber Status' are considered adequate however they are bordering on an unacceptably low IgG reading. Any small lapses in management (for example a calf receiving a slightly lower volume of colostrum) could result in Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT) resulting in sub-optimal performance. A review of colostrum quality and management should be carried out in this case.

RED Animals of 'Red status' have suffered either partial or full Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT). This means they have not received enough protective antibodies and will be more susceptible to infectious disease. They are also unlikely to have received other important benefits from colostrum such as hormones and growth factors critical to development and productivity. This requires an immediate intervention to investigate and rectify this from happening.

SUPER GROW CALF NUTS

High Intakes
High Performance

"Everything a calf needs"



WHAT THE FARMER SAYS

The Jennings family are highly regarded as one of the best pedigree Suffolk breeders in the country.

"I am very happy with Grennan's Elite Lamb Pellets because intakes are excellent & this is a good sign of palatability. We buy our feed based on quality first and price second. There is no sense in feeding quality stock poor feed at a price. I think the Grennans Elite Lamb Pellet is a super product and it is good value for money".



Michael Jennings, Co. Mayo pictured with his prize winning Suffolk flock.



GUT GUARD CALF & LAMB STARTER & RECOVERY GEL



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.

REDUCING THE RISK OF BLOAT IN CALVES

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

Bloat is caused by the production of excessive gas in the abomasum or rumen. Calves can bloat whether being fed whole milk or milk replacer, being fed with a bottle and teat, bucket and teat or an automatic feeder.

Bloat is caused by multiple factors and attention to detail is key in reducing the risk of bloat.

Keep all the following points below in mind for managing your calves this spring to keep bloat at a minimum.

COLOSTRUM

Feed at least 3 litres of colostrum (10% body weight) of high quality colostrum within the 1st 2-3 hours and a further 3 litres within 12 hours. This is your starting point as it helps reduce the risk of disease and bloat. Preferably feed colostrum using a bottle and teat as an incorrect technique of stomach tubing will damage the oesophageal groove and increase the risk of bloat.

MILK FEEDING

Regular feeding times are a must. Correct mixing of milk – no lumps, 12.5% concentration, feed at 37 degrees, 3 litre feeds (reduce to 2 litres per feed during a bloat outbreak), review mixing rates and regularly check weights of powder been fed. In the case of automatic feeders calibrate feeders at least once per week and between batches of milk powder. Also, don't mix electrolytes with milk as this can cause bloat.

MILK FEEDING TEMPERATURE

Feed whole milk or milk replacer at body temperature.

TEAT FEEDERS

Teats should be at the correct height of 66-70cm and in good condition. Worn/old teats with large holes will increase the risk of bloat due to excessive drinking speeds. Use teat feeders with individual compartments to ensure more even intakes of milk

CALF HOUSING

During cold and wet weather calves become stressed and this leaves them more susceptible to disease and bloat. Reduce the risk by using calf jackets, plenty of straw bedding (nesting score 3+) and avoid draughts etc.

GROUP SIZES

Bigger groups are associated with more competition, more stress, more disease and poor health. Calves in large groups will drink their milk feed faster leading to a higher risk of bloat. The ideal group size is 12-15 calves per group.

HYGIENE

Dirty, contaminated feed or equipment will introduce and spread unwanted microbes to calves. The presence of Clostridia and Sarcina bacteria are associated with bloat in calves so regularly clean and disinfect feeding equipment. Use a mix of peracetic acid and warm water to sterilize feeders and teats. Disinfect teats on automatic feeders on a daily basis to reduce the spread of disease.

WATER

Have a good supply of clean water available to calves from the 1st few days of life. In larger groups of calves have 2 water points per 20 calves. If bloat is an issue test water for coliforms. Starter Feed/Straw

Fresh starter feed (coarse/pellet) and straw in racks should be available from day 3 for rumen development. Avoid any sudden changes (eg from coarse to pellets) as this may increase the risk of bloat.

CALF HEALTH

Calves with poor health due to infectious scours and respiratory problems are more likely to develop digestive conditions leading to bloat.



RATH
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KILCORMAC
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TINNYCROSS
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MOATE
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ROSEMOUNT
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MOYVORE
044 93 55593