

Newsletter MAY

2024



NEW CLOVER SAFE SPRAY

ProClova® XL, the new CLOVER SAFE weed killer for use in reseeded and established grassland is now available in all our stores. It replaces older clover safe chemistry that was in products such as Legumex, DB Plus etc. These are no longer available.

Comes in a twin pack – Both products in the pack must always be used together and in the correct proportions

New Reseeds: Controls broadleaved weeds including seedling Docks, Chickweed, Redshank, Fat hen, and Red dead nettle

Rate: Use at - **1 pack to 3 ha (7.5ac)** i.e. 85 grms/ha ProClova + 165 mls/ha XL adjuvant, in 200L of water/ha

Timing: Slightly later than previous products. The grass should be just starting to tiller and the clover must have at least one fully emerged trifoliate leaf (*as per the picture*).



In Established grassland (Old leys or reseeds that have achieved over 90% ground cover): ProClova® XL controls docks, dandelions, buttercups, hogweeds and cow parsley

Rate: Use at - **1 pack to 2 ha (5ac)** i.e. 125grms/ha ProClova + 250mls/ha XL adjuvant, in 200L of water/ha

Timing: Best results always achieved in good warm growing conditions.

Not to be used in multi species swards. Red clover swards need to be allowed over winter before using ProClova. Ideally used with drift reducing nozzles.

Always follow the best practice guide before use.



FAECAL FLUKE & WORM TESTING

- DETECTS COCCIDIA, ALL STOMACH WORMS, NEMATODIRUS, RUMEN FLUKE & LIVER FLUKE
- SAME DAY TURNAROUND
- HIGHLY ACCURATE
- ENABLES A TARGETED TREATMENT



THIS SERVICE IS AVAILABLE IN ALL OUR GRENNAN STORES TODAY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT DARA 057 9133 559 OR AGNES 057 9133 512

MAGNESIUM CRUCIAL THIS TIME OF YEAR

LACTATING COWS

By Sean Holian - (B. Agr. Sc.) – Ph: 086 8325325

Magnesium is one of the most important minerals for both dry and lactating cows. Very little usable magnesium is stored by the cow and therefore it must be fed daily. Ewe's and beef animals have also a requirement for magnesium. Farmers generally think of magnesium in terms of a single function i.e. its role in the prevention of grass tetany. However, magnesium is a more important mineral than this.

Magnesium plays a role in over 300 biochemical functions in the cow. Some of the important roles magnesium plays include energy metabolism, bone formation, nerve and muscle function, and calcium and phosphorus metabolism. For dry cows magnesium is a critical element, playing an important role in the metabolism of calcium around calving.

Traditionally Lactating dairy cows were fed and are still fed one ounce (28 gram) of added magnesium (2 ounces (56gram) of Cal-mag per day). This recommendations comes from a time when potassium was largely applied in autumn

and herbage potassium levels were significantly lower in spring grazing that they are today.

Looking at current recommendation based on potash levels a higher level would be required to get adequate levels absorbed on a consistent basis(Professor Weiss of Ohio State University (J. Dairy Sci, 87:2167-2171, 2004).

A level close to 35 gram of added magnesium is desirable for dairy cows on higher potassium herbage's. This can be achieved by increasing the concentration of magnesium in the feed. However there is very little upward flexibility on this figure and if feeding levels need to be increased they can't. A better option might be leave the magnesium in the feed as is and add additional magnesium to the water (see below).

In terms of suckler cows the current recommendations of 28gram magnesium per head per day should be adequate in all but extreme situations.



SUPPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

(A) LACTATING ANIMALS -

1. Concentrate feed For dairy farmers feeding concentrate adding magnesium in the form of Calcined magnesite is a good option. It is cost effective and if the cow eats the ration she is guaranteed to get her magnesium. An issue relating to intake cows in heat can be a problem.

2. Liquid Magnesium Magpak is a magnesium salt that is soluble in water. It also contains copper zinc and manganese. Additional trace element in the form of LiquiTrace can be added. It is mixed with water on the farm and can be fed using a Compsey dispenser. A Compsey dispenser is a simple way to feed magnesium and a short video on how to set up and use can be seen on YouTube. Search compsey dispenser from Inform Nutrition.

Contact any of our branches for further Info

COMPSEY DISPENSER



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UKm1DV_59Y

(B) • SUCKLER COWS

1. As above, liquid magnesium **Magpak** is an ideal method of supplementing magnesium. As most of the magnesium is supplemented during the breeding season additional trace elements in the form of Liqui-trace should be supplemented.

2. Magnesium Buckets are a popular method of supplementing magnesium to suckler cows. Again as most of the magnesium is fed during the breeding season our **Sweetlics Fertility Mag** 20kg bucket is an ideal product to use. This contains 15% magnesium with a high concentration level of trace element ideal for the suckler during the pre-breeding and breeding season.



(C) • SUCKLER COWS

1. Ewes require magnesium particularly in the period pre and post lambing.

2. A daily target intake of 10 gram of calcined magnesite per head per day. Cal-mag is added to all our Ewe & Lamb Feeds at 1%. Where concentrates are not being fed our **Sweetlic's Easi Mag** 18kg bucket is an ideal method of supplementing magnesium.

3. Cal-Mag or Calcined magnesite (magnesium oxide is the active ingredient) is a common source of magnesium used in minerals and feed. It does NOT contain calcium as often mistakenly thought.

Calcined refers to the thermal process calcination which renders magnesium oxide digestible for ruminant animals

A daily target intake of 10gram of calcined magnesite per head per day.



SUMMER SCOUR SYNDROME IN CALVES

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

With the summer on its way hopefully, the majority of spring born calves will be gradually moved from house-based systems to pastures. This is an important time for calves overall health and this transition needs to happen as smoothly as possible.

One of the main issues affecting calves on turnout is Summer Scour Syndrome. This is a relatively new phenomenon that describes the rapid onset of scours in calves within 6 weeks of being turned out to grass. There has been no identification of any infectious agent as a cause and in many cases. It was often wrongly considered to be caused by various parasites such as coccidiosis, salmonella etc.

The initial symptoms from calves is scouring. Calves also develop inflammation and scabbing around the mouth. This makes the intake of feed and water difficult and results in rapid weight loss. The main cause for this summer scour syndrome is grazing calves on fresh lush grass. This is exacerbated by the fact calves are selective grazers and have preference for the sweetest grass within a sward. This creates an environment within the rumen where very low levels of fibre are consumed and causes acidity to develop. Weaning of calves with slightly under developed rumens is also potentially a cause.

On farms with Summer Scour Syndrome occurring, it's important to ensure calves have access to high levels of effective fibre from stemmy grass or older swards when first turned out to pasture and an extra source of fibre (DRY straw or hay) may be required.

Avoid grazing reseed pastures or leafy lush grass for at least 2 months after turnout. Avoid pasture that have had slurry or nitrogen applied recently.

We have specifically formulated our **Early Graze Calf Nuts** to act as an aid in reducing the incidence of Summer Scour

Syndrome in calves. The nut contains low starch and high fibre content to help avoid digestive upsets and compliment the growing calf to make the best use of a grass based diet.

While Early Graze Calf Nuts can be a tremendous help in avoiding summer scours, they should be used as part of an overall calf management approach that is designed to ensure calves hit the ground running when they are let out to grass and do not suffer any setbacks whatsoever in their all important first grazing season.

This approach should include the following:

- Do not wean calves off milk until they are consistently consuming at least 1.5 to 2 kgs concentrates / head / day
- Feed calves indoors on an ad lib basis until concentrate intakes reach at least 1.5kgs /head per day consistently
- Change the concentrate feeding regime from ad lib over to a twice per day (morning and evening) regime at least a week before calves go to grass – this to get calves into the habit of eating concentrates twice daily before they encounter the stresses associated with the change of being outdoors on a grass based diet
- Continue this twice per day feeding routine for at least the first month at grass & target intakes of at least 2 x 1 kg / day
- Irrespective of what Calf Nut or Crunch they were reared on while indoors, we recommend you switch over to our **Early Graze Calf Nuts** at grass & ideally do so a week or 2 before let out to grass
- Access to a pick of dry straw is very helpful to calf health in the first few weeks at grass

DON'T FORGET!
Pre cut silage test for grass
Nitrates & Sugars now
available* in all our stores.



***SAME DAY TURNAROUND**

RATH
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC
057 91 35004

TINNYCROSS
057 93 25500

MOATE
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT
090 64 36358

MOYVORE
044 93 55593