

Newsletter JULY 2024



PRIORITISE GRASS MANAGEMENT NOW

By Aisling Claffey - (B.Agr.Sc,Ph.D.) – Ph:086 0317483

Growth has been variable on most farms throughout June with cooler temperatures and soil moisture deficits gradually increasing in most parts, particularly in the midlands and south of the country. This has limited the potential to make surplus bales from the milking platform, and in some cases has resulted in silage being fed on farm to maintain AFC (Average Farm Cover)

Late-calving cows that have hit peak milk production in the past month will have struggled on grass that has hit the stemmy/reproductive stage and has a higher stem fraction vs cows that peaked on first/second round grass in mid-late April. They will also have a much shorter lactation length if drying off in mid-December, so consider this when making decisions around the end of breeding.

It is imperative to determine what stocks of silage are in the yard currently and what your demand for the winter months will be. Always allow for at least one month of extra silage as a reserve.

The following are the monthly requirements for varying livestock groups: Dairy cow - 1.6 ton, 1-2 yr. Old - 1.3 ton, and 0-1 yr. old - 0.7 ton. It is equally important to have sufficient good quality silage (74 DMD) for weanlings and

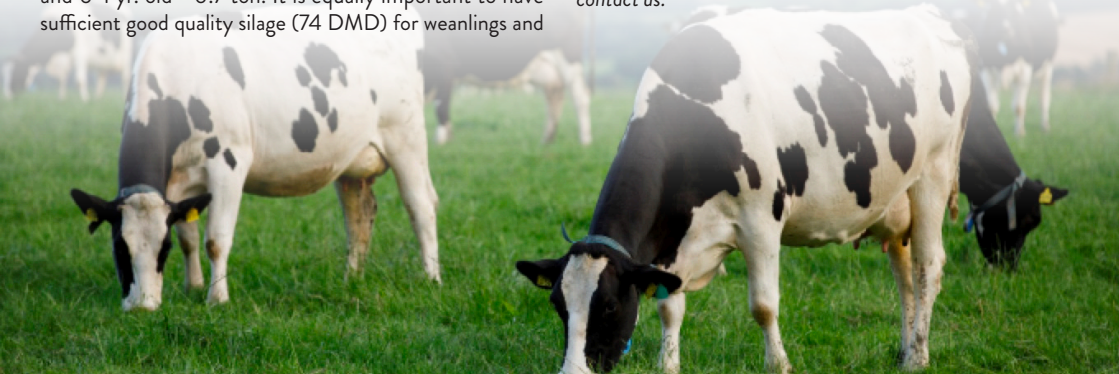
milking cows, as it is to have medium quality (68 DMD) silage for dry cows and in-calf heifers.

To calculate the forage gathered to date measure the length, breadth and average height of the silage pit and assuming a dry matter of 25 %, multiply by 0.68 to calculate fresh weight tons. Most baled silage contains 800-900 kg of fresh silage.

If there is a considerable deficit of silage still to be filled on your farm make decisions now to alleviate this pressure:

- Can you close up an area of the farm for a third cut of silage?
- Is there standing crops in your area which may be available to purchase?
- Is there a local tillage farmer with maize sown that you could secure?
- Complete a full scan and consider selling poor performing or empty cows in early Autumn

If you are concerned about fodder scarcity on your farm currently or for the winter months please don't hesitate to contact us.



Grasswatch reports throughout the month of June show considerable variation in grass quality on farm with a range of 13-21% in grass protein levels, a range of 30-45% in NDF fibre levels and a UFL range of 0.98 to 1.15/kg DM. A cow requires approx. 0.45 UFL to produce one litre of milk so managing grass quality in the coming weeks and months will be key to maintaining mid-lactation performance

RATH
057 91 33002

KILCORMAC
057 91 35004

CLOGHAN
090 64 57112

TINNYCROSS
057 93 25500

MOATE
090 64 66526

ROSEMOUNT
090 64 36358

MOYVORE
044 93 55593

CONTROLLING WORM BURDENS IN CALVES DURING JULY

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

On the majority of farms, calves are 8-10 weeks at grass and in some farms longer, so worming needs to be considered. Due to the relatively cool May/ early June period, worm burdens in pastures have been much lower than usual. However, by now worm burdens will have increased because rain has been followed by warmer weather.

Lungworm is the biggest threat to calves at grass this July especially where calves have not received their first wormer yet. It is important to monitor calves closely every day from now on for signs of coughing. Stomach worms will also be an issue at this stage. Although calves will have built up some natural immunity to worms at this stage, best practice is to carry out faecal egg counts (available in all Grennan stores) before making a final decision.

Be aware that faecal egg count tests generally don't give lungworm results unless specifically requested, so talk to your lab if lungworm is a concern because a different method of dung collection is required and a different lab test needs to be carried out.

On farms where there is no anthelmintic resistance issue, the use of a yellow wormer for the first dose, followed by a white wormer during the summer and the use of Ivermectins for late summer and autumn seem to work best.

Ivermectin products like Ivomec and Dectomax are useful products for calves because they have persistent activity.

Unlike wormers in the white or yellow class, Ivermectins prevent reinfection after dosing for a period of time. In the case of lungworm, Ivomec prevents reinfection for 28 days post-treatment. If lungworm is a concern where there are calves coughing its best to use a yellow drench or a Levacide injection, because the worm kill is slower with these and therefore the risk of calves getting pneumonia after dosing is much lower.

Another good practice to help reduce worm burdens is to graze after-grass and reseed with calves as both should have a lower parasite burden than the main grazing area. However Summer Scour Syndrome is always a risk on these lush pastures so it's very important to provide fibre in the form of straw to help prevent it.

If pasture burden is low due to management, faecal egg counts are clear and animals are growing at a satisfactory rate, some of the summer dosing may be unnecessary, but close monitoring of calves is a must.

Other things to keep in mind for managing calves at grass from July onwards: Calves should be on a grazing rotation getting fresh grass every 3-4 days in covers of 1300-1500 kgs/Dm/ha.

Supplement calves with 1-2 kg of our new **Early Graze Calf Nuts** specifically formulated for calves at grass to maintain optimum thrive and help avoid setbacks from Molybdenosis, Summer Scour Syndrome and CCN.



IN-HOUSE FAECAL FLUKE & WORM EGG COUNT SERVICE

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



Due to the current high demand for this service, we ask that you pre-book your samples in advance if possible.

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

YELLOW LEAVES IN BARLEY?

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

Amazingly, after late sowing into poor conditions, most cereal crops look very well at the moment.

Many are concerned about all the yellow leaves that appeared in early June. It's important to note that this looks far worse than it actually is, as there is max 1 in 10 leaves yellow.

These yellow tip leaves are generally a result of barley yellow dwarf virus (BYDV) infection, which was transmitted onto crops by aphids while they were at the early to mid-tillering stage. Its particularly common this year because later sowings meant that crops were at this early/vulnerable stage of growth when aphid numbers were higher. This issue is always of concern from mid-April onwards in spring barley crops. While a lot of crops received an aphicide early to try and avoid the issue, results were mixed because the pyrethroids group of insecticides are all that we have and its widely thought that 50% of the aphid population are resistant to these chemicals. Its impossible to predict an exact yield penalty from BYDV because the virulence of the infections can vary a lot from year to year. While some trials suggest a 50% yield hit in infected patches, in many years the level of infection we are currently seeing in fields has very little if any effect on yield.

In any case there is nothing that can be done about **BYDV** at this stage and the main focus of your attention from now on should be final fungicides and pulling Wild Oats if needs be.



BUILDING A STRONG CALF TO HELP THE WEANING PROCESS

By *Brian Delaney* - (B.Agr.Sc) - Ph: 086 0449592

It may seem like there is a long time before weaning but focusing on two simple factors NOW can help you build a stronger weanling for the autumn sales.

VACCINATIONS: Pneumonia is a significant risk for calves following all periods of stress such as castration/weaning/housing. All of these jobs will be carried over the next few months, at a time when weather conditions will be deteriorating, and worm burdens will be increasing. Vaccinations are a key tool in reducing the risk of an outbreak on your farm, and some products must be administered shortly for their booster shot to be fully effective before the highest stress point of all, weaning.

CREEP FEEDING: Calves always deliver a great economic response to creep feeding. On average, **every €1.40 spent on weanling creep feed will give an extra 1kg of liveweight gain.** Research has shown that calves supplemented with concentrate at least 1 month prior to weaning show less check to thrive and settle down much quicker after weaning. If any of the following circumstances apply, it would pay dividends to introduce creep feed now.

- Poor grass quality or availability
- Light calves due to poor thrive or late calving
- Poor milk supply from the cow

Our weanling feeding options include:

- 18% Early Graze Calf Nuts
- 16% Super Weanling Crunch +/- Lungbooster
- 16% Elite Weanling Nuts
- 14% Bull Beef Crunch

Please contact any of our technical team or call into any of our branches.



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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 *Grennans 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.

