

Newsletter DECEMBER 2024

JGRENAN
& SONS



Feed Consistency Vital in Beef Finishing Systems

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

When finishing cattle over the winter months, feed costs make up a substantial proportion of the overall production costs. This can lead to complicated mixes on farm as producers try to utilise cheaper raw materials, but the losses in liveweight gain can quickly outweigh the savings in feed costs if there is not a focus on feed consistency. A small daily variation in the amounts of each ingredient will change the starch/sugar/fibre intakes, which can start a cycle of sub-clinical acidosis that can go unnoticed but will dramatically reduce daily liveweight gains.

Also, there is a temptation to add “a little more” of ingredients that are known for their finishing ability, such as maize, possibly resulting in exceeding a safe starch level and reducing daily liveweight gain.

Cattle are creatures of habit and are sensitive to changes in their feed. Any small difference in ingredients which are included to help increase feed intake, such as molasses, can affect their intake and their performance.

When including concentrated supplements such as protected fats/feed urea, it is vital that they are added in a way (slowly and along the full width of the mixer) that ensures they are thoroughly mixed through.

On the other hand, if beef cattle with good genetic potential are fed a balanced, consistent feed, they have great potential to put on 1.5 to 2 kg/hd/day liveweight gain. The simple system of feeding a balanced concentrate alongside good-quality forage can often return a better margin over feed costs when the hidden costs of home mixing are factored in.



HOLIDAY ORDERING REMINDER As we approach the festive season, we'd like to kindly remind all our customers that orders for the weeks leading up to the new year must be placed by Friday, December 13th



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

WHAT THE FARMER SAYS



FINTAN ROBINSON, TYRELLSPASS

I have been using Grennan's Super Bull Beef ration to feed continental heifers at grass. I find the palability and coarse texture is great and it can be hard to get out of the way quick enough. It is a great product to get weight and grade up without them getting overfat. I can notice the step up in performance when I introduce Grennan's ration. Even with excellent quality grass, cattle don't kill-out the same.



TOMMY CLAFFEY from Ballinagore, Kilbeggan, Co Westmeath farms a mixed grazing enterprise consisting of 140 early lambing ewes and 50 suckler cows. The Claffey's are early season lamb producers, and they aim to produce high quality lambs for the Easter market. The ewe flock is made up of predominately Suffolk cross ewes with a few Texel crosses also included. These ewes are mated to Texel rams in August to produce lambs that will thrive from birth to slaughter and grade U's.

Ewes are scanned in late October and are housed in December where they are batched into groups of singles, twins and triplets and fed appropriately.

"We need ewes to lamb with good sized healthy hardy lambs and they need to have plenty of milk. As an early lamb producer, milk is absolutely essential when you need a lamb to hit 42-45kg in 12-13 weeks. We find that the ingredients in the Grennans Elite Ewe & Lamb 20% Nut always delivers on this front and we would also be very happy with the birth weights and vigour of our lambs. We have been using Grennan's Elite Ewe & Lamb 20% nut for the past seven or eight years now and we certainly can't see ourselves moving away from it anytime soon"

Dealing with Milk Fever and Subclinical Milk Fever

By **Damien Guinan and Diarmuid Lee** - (B. Agr. Sc.)

The effects of milk fever and subclinical milk fever are often overlooked on farms. Calcium (Ca) is vital for many functions in cows around calving. As shown in the chart below, muscle function and immune function are the two key aspects affected. All the pathways required to mobilise calcium in cows are magnesium (Mg)-dependent. In an Irish context, this can often be challenging due to grass silages having a high potassium (K) content. This high K content is frequently associated with the application of slurry. The absorption of Mg is affected by the high K/DCAB silages due to interactions between K and Mg in the rumen. It is important to analyse pit samples for minerals to assess this risk and take the necessary steps to ensure a smooth transition.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

In cases where silage is very high in K, magnesium (Mg) flakes can be added to acidify the diet and ensure adequate Mg absorption.

Ensure adequate levels of Mg are supplemented in the pre-calver minerals. All Grennan pre-calvers contain 25% Mg, which will meet the requirements.

Ensure adequate copper (Cu) in the diet. Copper helps with energy metabolism and immune function. Our pre-calver minerals contain 50% protected Cu, which will help cows meet their daily requirements.

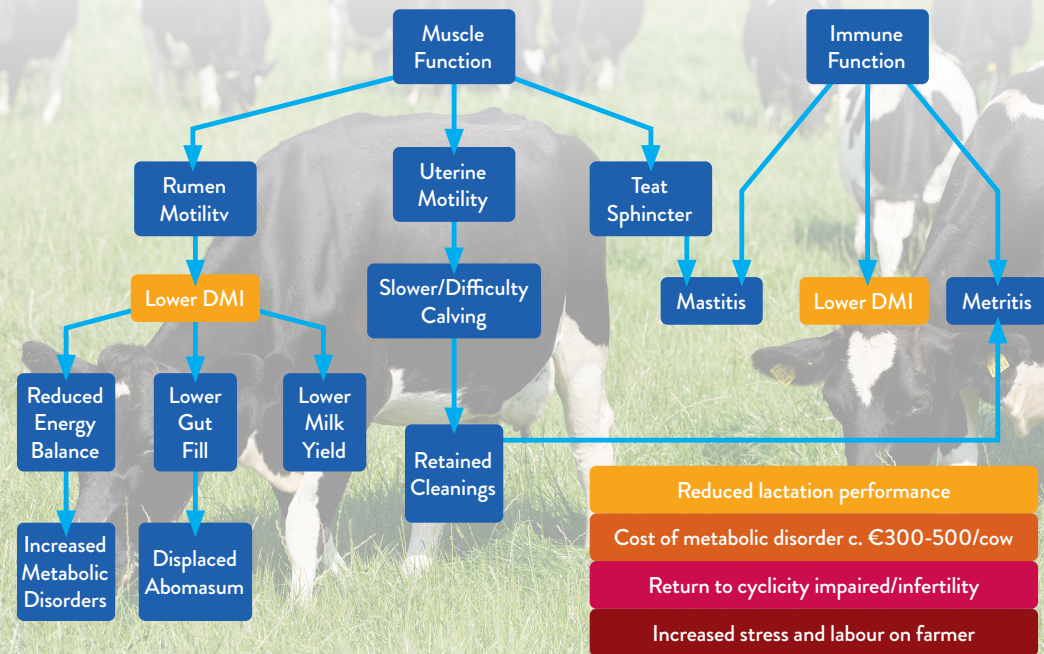
Ensure high levels of vitamins are fed. Vitamin E is needed for immune function, and Vitamin D3, along with Mg, will increase the absorption of calcium from the bones. All Grennan minerals have high vitamin content.

WHERE DOES IMMUNO FIT IN?

Our Immuno product works on white blood cells (WBC). It helps increase WBC activity and raise WBC count. This is particularly beneficial in cases where clinical milk fever is an issue. As shown in the chart above, immune function is affected when calcium (Ca) levels are low in the bloodstream. Ca is required to activate the immune response. Our Immuno product can help overcome this reduced immune response by working on WBCs. This will, in turn, help reduce metritis, lower SCC, and increase DMI. These improvements will lead to a more profitable next lactation.

The Cascade Effect of Milk Fever

For every clinical case of milk fever (downer cow), there are 10 subclinical cases



New Faecal Egg Counting Service

At J Grennan and Sons, we advocate the theory of making decisions based on accurate information. We see this in terms of analytical testing carried out here, whether it's soil testing, silage testing, etc. We are now offering an in-house Faecal Egg Counting (FEC) service.

As most cattle are now housed, it represents the perfect time to carry out FEC testing. If you are interested, please contact any of the J Grennan and Sons branches for more information and for sample vessels.

FARMERS!

WE PROVIDE RAPID FLUKE & WORM TESTS IN-HOUSE WITH ACCURATE, SAME DAY RESULTS!

DID YOU KNOW?

Regular faecal testing can help quickly diagnose fluke and worms in susceptible animals, so we recommend to routinely monitor for these parasite eggs.

CONCERNED ABOUT RESISTANCE?

With FEC testing we can assess the efficacy of dosing products before and after they've been administered to your animals.

PROUDLY POWERED BY



J GRENNAN & SONS CALF JACKETS

FEATURES & BENEFITS

- Breathable and water repellent
- High quality for long life
- Easy to use
- Machine washable at 50 degrees C
- One chest closer, two adjustable leg straps
- Two adjustable belly straps
- Reduce the risk of pneumonias/chills and scours.
- Promote high average daily weight gains and overall thrive



Our calf jackets are available nationwide via our stockists and online at www.grennanonline.ie

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS - 2024 -

Monday 23rd - Open

Tuesday 24th - Half Day

Wednesday 25th - Closed

Thursday 26th - Closed

Friday 27th - Closed

Saturday 28th - Open

Monday 30th - Open

Tuesday 31st - Open

Season's Greetings

As the festive season approaches, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your trust and support throughout the year. Your business means a great deal to us, and we are thankful for the opportunity to serve you.

At J. Grennan and Sons, we take great pride in being part of the agricultural community. Serving the agricultural sector is at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to supporting the farmers, producers, and businesses that keep this vital industry thriving. Your loyalty and partnership play an essential role in our continued success.

As we look to the year ahead, we remain dedicated to improving our products and services to better meet your needs.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with peace and joy.

Warm regards, The Team at J. Grennan and Sons

