Newsletter FEBRUARY 2025

J GRENNAN & SONS

GOOD COLOSTRUM QUALITY & MANAGEMENT
– A MUST FOR SUCCESSFUL CALF REARING

ImmunIGY Bovine IgG

Everybody knows that all newborn calves , lambs , piglets etc are born with a very poorly developed immune system and that they rely entirely on their mother's colostrum and the antibodies (Igg's) and other disease protections mechanisms it delivers, to gain the protection they so need against early life infections.

Calves that do not get enough antibodies within the first 4 to 6 hours of life, have a higher much higher chance of becoming ill and dying. Calves that survive bouts of ill health early in life also have much poorer subsequent growth rates than calves that received adequate colostrum, so it's an absolute no brainer that you do whatever it takes to get your colostrum house in order.

The quality of colostrum is defined largely by the concentrations of antibodies (Igg's) it contains. This quality can be extremely variable between cows and it tends to decrease as milk yield potential increases. The second and subsequent milking's of a dairy cow contain much less antibodies and should not even be considered as colostrum, but as transition milk. Our immuno product definitely increases antibody levels substantially in colostrum when fed for at least 3 weeks pre- calving, so the €3 per head you will spend on Immuno over those 3 weeks is generally money very well spent, if only for this lift you get in colostrum quality, alone.

We now provide an in-house test that enables farmers check if calves received adequate Immunoglobulin (IgG) levels,. This ImmunIGY Bovine blood test can be accurately assess the calf' blood Igg levels from 24 hours up to 7 weeks old. Talk to any of our staff for further details.

CALF VACCINATION – MONEY WELL SPENT

Pneumonia is the number one cause of death in calves older than one month of age. Money invested in devising an effective vaccination programme specifically for your farm is money well spent. The table below outlines some of the most commonly recommended products , their timings and approximate costs. This would be classified as a 'Gold Standard' pneumonia vaccination programme for calves.

CALF VACCINATION PROGRAMME			
TIMING	**PRODUCT**	**PROTECTION AGAINST**	**APPROX COSTS/hd**
From 24 Hours	**Bovilis Intranasal RSP Live**	Bovine Respiratory Syncytical Virus (BRSV) + Parainfluenza 3 virus (PI3)	€5.20
12 weeks old	**Bovilis Bovipast RSP**	BRSV + PI3+ Mannheimia haemolytica	€5.40
12 weeks old *	**Bovilis IBR Marker Live**	Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR)	€2.50
16 weeks old	**Bovilis Bovipast RSP - Booster**	BRSV + PI3+ Mannheimia haemolytica - 4 week booster	€5.40
9 months old	**Bovilis IBR Marker Live - Booster**	Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) - 6 month booster	€2.50

** Note: At 12 weeks the Bovipast and IBR can be administered on same day.*

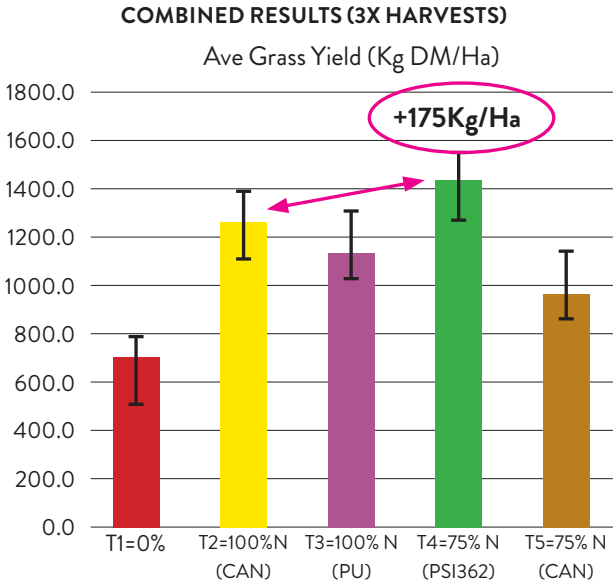
BOVILIS INTRANASAL RSP LIVE VACCINE; BRSV and PI3 are two of the most important viruses affecting young calves. The big advantage of this vaccine is it can be administered early in a calf's life, i.e. from 24 hours after birth. If calves are vaccinated within 24 hours of birth , then you will achieve onset of immunity from BRSV from this vaccine within 6 days. If vaccination is delayed to say 1 week of age or older , then those calves will achieve immunity from BRSV within 5 days. ***It takes 1 week to achieve immunity from PI3 . This vaccine delivers 12 weeks immunity.***

Don't forget that natural products can also have a major role to play in helping preventing all forms of respiratory & digestive challenges in calves. While they are not designed to replace a proper vaccination programme, natural preventative products such as our **LUNGBOOSTER PLUS & GUT GUARD** do come at a fraction of the cost and have proven to be very effective over many years now . These are both available as an option in our **WONDER THRIVE CALF MILK REPLACERS**

TERRA GROWS MORE GRASS

Latest farm trials confirm what many customers have been telling us for several years. Terra fertilizers are not just allowing them apply 20 to 25% less fertiliser N without any yield loss, they are actually growing MORE grass despite containing 20 to 25% less N.

See graph below showing summary of yield results obtained from cutting / grazing trials carried out last year. The aim of these trials was to compare Grass Dry Matter yields achieved from applying 22 units of Terra Nitrogen / acre, with those from 27 units N applied as CAN and as Protected Urea. Grass was harvested and weighed 4 weeks after fertiliser was applied in each plot. This happened over 3 consecutive cuts / grazing's taken at end of June, July and August last year.



IN SUMMARY;

a. On average, **70kgs Extra** Grass Dry Matter per acre (175 kg per ha) was grown from 1 bag of Terra N / acre vs 1 bag of CAN +S per acre for each cutting / grazing.
At a grass value of 15 cent per kg DM, this extra 70kgs is **worth €10.50 per acre**

b. On average, 100 kgs Extra Grass Dry Matter per acre (250kgs per ha) was grown from I bag of Terra N vs 0.7 bags (27 N) of Protected Urea +S for each cutting /grazing.
At a grass value of 15 cent per kg DM, this extra 100kgs is **worth €15 per acre**

c. With Terra N costing €15 per tonne over blended CAN +S this year, this means each Terra N treatment cost €0.75 per acre more than each CAN + S treatment. So the €10.50 worth of extra grass grown per cutting /grazing cost an extra spend of €0.75 per acre. **That's a 14 to 1 Return on your extra investment in Terra vs CAN +S.**

d. The Terra treatment cost €2.50 more per acre than the Protected Urea for each cutting /grazing. We achieved a €15 return for €2.50 spend. **So that's a 6 to 1 return on your extra Investment in Terra vs Protected Urea.**

e. We fully recognise that these were the results of only one replicated farm trial last year , but the results are not surprising to us, given the very positive feedback we have been getting from many customers about the yield responses they see from Terra Fertiliser since its launch.

SPRING BEANS
– WATCH YOUR ROTATIONS

We were delighted to see over 43,000 acres of Field Beans sown in Ireland last year. After years of pioneering the crop and promoting its benefits as both a tremendous feedstuff for livestock and as an unbeatable break crop for tillage farmers, it was great to see farmers reap the benefits last year. The €200 / acre Protein subsidy has of course been a major help in the recent acreage expansion and it looks set to be in place again for 2025 at least.

As acreages grow, we need to be very careful with rotations. Ideally there should be a gap of at least 4 & ideally 5 non-bean (or any legume) crops between successive bean crops. The main reason being to prevent avoid the buildup of stem nematodes in soils , but we suspect some detrimental fungal diseases such as Downy Mildew, Sclerotinia & Ascochyta also have an ability to carry over for several more years than is generally recognized .

Bean Nematodes are tiny, very slender round worms, not very unlike those that you drench your cattle and sheep for. There are two different races (types) that can effect beans, the Onion and the Giant race, with the latter being the one that can do most damage. They are naturally very resilient and can survive in a dormant state in soils for up to seven years or indeed can feed off the roots of several common tillage weed species to prolong that carryover period.

Nematodes can reduce yields by up to 70%. The main source of primary field infection can usually be traced back to the use of infected non-certified / home saved seed. So the use of certified seed is absolutely crucial because it will be certified as Nematode free. If tempted to use non certified bean seed ,make sure you get it tested before sowing and that you also know how many generations it is out from certified, because other yield damaging issues such as seed borne viruses can also come in to play with the use of multi-generational seed.

Supplies of native seed look very tight this year due to the late 2024 harvest combined with expected high demand. Imported seed will be expensive, so it's important to book your seed early . Main varieties available will be Protina, Lynx & Caprice. Do not be tempted to over seed. Aim to establish 25 to 30 Spring Bean plants per sq. mt., so check 1000 grain weights before sowing.