

Newsletter MARCH

2025



BETTER FEEDING, BETTER BREEDING

In order to increase the profitability of a suckler farm, it is essential to optimize key performance indicators such as ensuring cows go back in calf and increasing weanling weights. To support this, good nutrition is critical. Here's a breakdown of how feeding our 14% Suckler Cow Nuts supports both these benchmarks:

1. Ensures Cows Go Back in Calf

Post-calving nutrition is vital for helping cows regain body condition, rebuild energy reserves, and restore mineral levels, all of which directly influence fertility. By incorporating Grennan's Suckler Cow Nuts into their diet, cows receive increased energy, protein, and high quality fertility minerals. This helps bring body condition back to optimal levels, ensuring cows are ready for the next breeding season.

2kg /day of Grennan's Suckler Cow Nuts will ensure your cows receive adequate energy and essential minerals including the all-important 2ozs / day of Cal Mag they require to avoid Tetany.

2. Increases Weanling Weight

The quality and quantity of milk produced in the early stages of lactation directly impacts calf growth so when you feed the cow you feed the calf. Introducing Suckler Cow Nuts can enhance the quality of the cow's milk solids, which are critical for the calf's development in the first 1 to 2 months, when the calf is primarily reliant on milk. Ensuring the cow has a nutrient-dense diet will boost the calf's liveweight gains.

Economic Considerations

Suckler Cow Nuts provide a comprehensive mix of energy, minerals, and magnesium at 70c per head per day. While alternatives such as Hi-mag buckets provide the mineral needs at 20c per head per day, the extra investment in Suckler Cow Nuts can yield better results in terms of fertility and calf growth, improving overall profitability.



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

THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING ENERGY DENSITY IN EARLY LACTATION

Energy density of a milking cow's diet is critical to achieving optimum milk protein and yield in early lactation.

What should we be looking out for this spring:

1. Milk Protein Levels: Milk protein decreases quickly after calving but will start to rise again as the cow reaches her peak milk yield. The protein percentage at this point is typically about 0.3-0.4% lower than the expected lactation average. It is highly indicative of overall Energy intake.

2. Milk Fat-to-Protein Ratio: Monitoring the ratio of milk fat to protein is helpful in identifying dietary issues. A target ratio is around 1.3 Fat :1 Protein.

A higher milk fat-to-protein ratio could indicate the cow is using excess body fat to maintain production. This often happens when the diet lacks sufficient energy density or dry matter intake is compromised.

If milk fat levels are close to those of milk protein, it may suggest acidosis due to high starch intake or an inadequate supply of physically effective fibre in the diet.

Early February proved reasonably dry, providing the opportunity to put cows out to

some early grass. However, recent wet weather has made grazing difficult again, with many herds being rehoused. If on/off grazing, make sure cows have free access to silage when they return to the shed. Maintaining a daily allocation of grass will help retain energy levels in the diet. Spring grass typically ranges from 1.0-1.1 UFL/kg DM, in comparison to grass or maize silages, which usually range from 0.8-0.85 UFL/kg DM. Grass dry matter can affect the intake of a cow, so it is important to allow for this when deciding concentrate feeding levels.

Maximising energy intake is vital this time of the year, and in doing so effectively, you can increase your return on investment. Often the cheapest nut is not the best value nut.

The below table outlines the return on investment on ERbuyia higher energy nut.

	HIGHER QUALITY	LOWER QUALITY
UFL	1.08	0.96
Cost/ton	380	360
L/kg fed	2.4	2.1
Cost/kg fed	0.38	0.36
Value of milk (50c/l)	1.2	1.05
ROI	0.82	0.69
Saving on 5kg feeding rate to 100 cows	€65/day for paying €20 extra per ton	

MILKSHAKE PRO GUARD

A MULTI-FUNCTIONAL, GUT HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE SUPPORT SUPPLEMENT FOR CALVES. IT IS RECOMMENDED FOR USE IN SITUATIONS WHERE DIARRHOEA, CRYPTOSPORIDIUM, COCCIDIOSIS & STRESS ARE PRESENT IN YOUNG CALVES.



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SPRING BARLEY - SEED-RATES & VARIETIES

Spring barley sown at the optimum time (mid-March/ Early April) and in good seed beds require lower seeding rates because earlier sown crops always tiller better.

When sown from mid-April onwards, seedlings emerge into warmer conditions and longer growing days and hence grow faster & more erect, thereby tillering less & requiring higher seed rates to achieve the optimal number of grain heads per sq meter. To achieve optimal yield, aim for 300 established plants/sq mt when sown in March.

Allow for 10% seed loss when sowing conditions are good, and allow for a loss of up to 20% in poor conditions.

Example; Thousand grain weight of (TGW) of Florence = 55.9 grams . So to achieve 300 seeds per sq mt , whilst allowing for 90% establishment , you need to sow = 186kg/ha or 11.85stone/acre.

When sowing dates move past April 10th, aim for 325seeds/ sq mt.

Varieties available this Spring: Florence, Geraldine & Spinner.

	FLORENCE	GERALDINE	SPINNER
Relative Yield	104	104	105
Straw height (cm)	67.9	69.8	69.3
Resist to lodging	7	7	6
Straw breakdown	7	6	6
Earl- of Ripening	6	6	5
Mildew	8	8	8
Rhynchosporium	7	7	7
Brown Rust	5	6	6
Net blotch	6	8	8
1000 grain weight	55.9	54.3	55.2
Hectolitre	68	67.8	68.2
Screenings	1.3	1.4	1.2
Year first listed	2024	2022	2024

SPRING RUSH IS HERE!

After a long winter, it is great to see that spring is in the air at last. As usual there will be considerable pressure on our farm delivery and haulage services over the next few weeks.

To ensure timely delivery and avoid any disappointment, we recommend placing all orders well in advance of your desired delivery date.



KEY STEPS TO REARING SURPLUS LAMBS

- 1. Adequate Colostrum:** As a guide, lambs should receive 50ml of colostrum per kg of bodyweight as soon as possible after birth and a total of 200ml per kg of bodyweight in the first 24 hours.
- 2. Removal & Quarantine:** Remove lambs from their mothers at 24 hours (48 hours max) and quarantine them for 48 hours.
- 3. Decide on your rearing system:** Options include, Bottles / Ad-lib systems (warmer or cold) and Automatic machine feeding systems
- 4. Mix milk replacer accurately:** Water and powder **MUST** be measured accurately and mixed as per the manufacturer's guidelines. Make sure the water is lukewarm (39C) before adding powder. Very hot water will denature the milk proteins and antibodies. Lambs will happily drink cold milk after a week or two.
- 5. Hygiene & environment cleanliness is vital:** Lambs must be kept warm, draught free and dry, with clean bedding and good ventilation. Clean/

disinfect feeding equipment daily to minimise disease risk.

6. Concentrates & Water: Introduce high-quality creep feed ad-lib from one week old along with straw or hay. Constant access to clean fresh water is essential.

7. Weaning: Lambs should be a minimum of 35 days old and/or two-and-a-half times birth weight (9-10kg), as well as eating 250g concentrates/head/day.

8. Economics of artificially reared lambs: Table below: Ref Michael Gottstein Teagasc 2023.



INPUT	QUANTITY	COST /LAMB
Milk Replacer (3.60/kg)	13kg	€46.80
Meal (assumed €450/t)	121kg (110 days @1.1kg/day)	€54.45
Miscellaneous (straw, electricity, etc)		€10.00
Total		€111.25
21.5kg carcass	€8 per kg	€172.00



Wonder Lamb MILK REPLACER



Improved Health | Better Weight Gains | Maximum Returns