



AUTUMN GRAZING ROTATION

Now the National Ploughing Championships are behind us, we look to the final grazing rotation and the winter housing period. It is important to keep some grass in the diet of dairy cows and young cattle as long as weather and grass covers permit. However, it is important to remember that every day you graze during the late autumn, you reduce the levels of spring growth and grass accumulation over the winter. It is more important to have a good supply of quality grass available in the spring than in late autumn.

Prioritise the paddocks closest to the yard or on drier ground for closing in mid-late October as they will offer the greatest flexibility in early and mid-spring, while the number of grazing cows increases. Paddocks closed earlier in the autumn will have the highest covers in the spring, which are more suitable for grazing when there are a lot of cows calved. When cows are grazing in the autumn rotation, grass allowance is often reduced, this may compromise cow Body Condition Score (BCS), leaving the animal thinner at dry-off. Ensure an adequate level of grass is fed for current milk production. This will maintain body condition and help reduce feed requirements during the dry period.



Grass Quality Is Good But Dry Matter Is Variable

Our Weekly Grass Watch reports show that grass proteins and digestibility are high but in recent weeks we have noted a decline in Dry Matter. Obviously weather conditions and periods of intense rain will greatly reduce the Grass Dry Matter and at times could reduce total Dry Matter intake by 2 kgs DM/day. This is equivalent to 4 kgs of milk production or a reduction in daily live weight gain on cattle of up to 300 grams/day. Please supplement livestock with additional forage or concentrate feeding to compensate for low Dry Matter grass.



An 'All Star Winner'

We wish to congratulate our Nutritionist, Heather Peppard on winning the inaugural Farm Animal Nutrition Award, sponsored by Alltech, at a recent event in Galway. This award is recognition for the passion that Heather has for adopting new research to deliver science-based, practical solutions to our customers at farm level.

L-R: Charlie McConalogue, T.D., Cathal McCormack, Alltech, Sponsor of the Award, Heather Peppard, Brett Brothers and Joe Connolly, Galway Hurling, Guest of Honour



PRODUCT FOCUS

Maize Silage Additives



Maize is an expensive crop to grow and like anything of high value it is advisable to have insurance. It is vital to get the preservation of maize silage correct, to maximise the financial return and Dry Matter (DM) yield from your investment. Treating maize at ensiling reduces secondary fermentation, keeps the pit face cool and stable at feed out and improves animal performance. Treated maize silage reaches aerobic stability 3-5 days faster than non-treated maize and maintains a lower temperature throughout feeding, resulting in greater energy and DM yield. Available in both powder and liquid application, one bag or bottle of Ecosyl's DA Ecocorn will treat 50 tonnes of maize silage. We also stock Inform Nutrition's Sila-Save, an excellent product to reduce surface spoilage along the top and edges of your maize silage pit.



Reminder - Silage Analysis

When managing livestock during the winter, it is critical to know the quality of silage in your pit. For silage that will be used for dry cows, it is recommended that you test the silage for minerals to reduce the risk of any unforeseen problems at calving. Contact your Brett's Sales Representative if you would like your silage analysed.

Pulmasure to Reduce the Risk of Pneumonia in Housed Weanlings

Pulmasure is a powder blend of essential oils and immunity boosters (Vitamin E and selenium) fed to weanlings at housing for approximately ten days. This product has been very successful in reducing outbreaks of clinical pneumonia. Pulmasure is available in a 7kg bucket and will treat 23 weanlings. A 250kg weanling is fed at 30g per day, either with silage or mixed through meal.



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