



IVERK SHOW 2024

We were delighted to welcome so many customers to our stand at the Iverk Show on Saturday, August 24th and it was great to see some of them enjoying success in the livestock showing. Established in 1896, the Iverk Show is Ireland's oldest Agricultural show. The show's hard-working committee, which does so much behind the scenes in the build-up to the event, deserve special recognition for ensuring the continued success of the show.



Finishing Beef Animals

With a buoyant beef trade, a shortage of fodder and poor grass growth, there will be a lot of cattle being targeted for finishing. Each farm is different and it will depend on the animal type, if they are on target weights and what the fodder supply and grass growth are like on the farm. There are two options:

1 - Finish steers and heifers off grass with supplementary feeding

Bretts Beef Grass Finisher Cubes 13% are the ideal beef cube for steers and heifers being fed at grass. They are high in cereals barley and maize and are carefully balanced with soya hulls and also include Acid Buf as a rumen buffer.

2- House finishing stock for an intensive finishing period (ad-lib feeding)

During the transitional feeding period of approximately three weeks, the level of concentrate increases gradually while the amount of silage or forage is reduced. This is a challenging period with the risk that rumen pH drops and causes acidosis but with excellent management and the correct selection of feed, cattle will settle into high feeding rates very quickly.

- For cattle at grass that are targeted for intensive feeding start offering 2-3 kgs at grass and this will enable a quicker transition once cattle are housed.
- Do not overstock pens and bear in mind that the animals will get bigger while in these pens. Animals need adequate feeding and lying space.
- Intensively fed animals perform better on straw bedded sheds but the majority of beef animals are housed on slats. If available, pen finishing animals on rubber slats
- Check water supply daily and clean out drinkers.
- It is vital that there is good ventilation and air movement in the shed. Clipping a strip of hair up the back can reduce 'sweating' of animals in the shed.
- For the first few days after housing animals, offer an abundance of silage and straw; this allows the rumen bugs to acclimatise to an indoor diet. (PTO)



Finishing Beef Animals



A supply of grass silage and straw is essential.

(FROM FRONT)

- Select a feed that is suitable for ad-lib feeding. In Bretts, we firmly believe in the use of feed additives in conjunction with careful raw material selection. Acid Buf and Actisaf Yeast are proven to maintain rumen pH, reducing the risk of acidosis, loose dungs and subsequent lameness.
- Introduce feed at no more than 3 kgs per head per day. Make sure every animal can get to the trough. As a rule of thumb increase feed rate by 1 kg every third day and once you get to 5 kgs feed cattle fed twice a day. Continue to offer an unlimited supply of good quality forage; grass silage and straw are ideal. As concentrate levels increase, the volume of forage eaten will decline.
- Bretts Beef Elite 14%, Coarse Beef 14% or Coarse Bull 12% are all suitable for ad-lib feeding.

With disappointing grass growth rates on many farms, we are noting that youngstock are struggling to achieve target weights.

Creep feeding suckler weanlings now will give them the best opportunity to increase growth rates. Offering 1-2 kg of concentrates will also reduce stress at weaning. Male spring-born calves in a Calf to Beef System should also be fed at grass prior to housing. Bretts Weanling Cube or Beef Crunch are ideally suited in this situation.

Replacement heifer and calves in a calf to beef system should be weighed and grouped if behind target weights. For a replacement heifer she should be 190 kg by late September (580kg mature weight cow). These animals need to be on target in order for breeding next spring. Try and concentrate on the younger and lighter calves in particular. Separating them out from the larger group will allow them a best chance to thrive.

The most important thing is to weigh your calves and get a handle on what the best course of action is to reach their target weights. Heifer rearer cubes/ration is high energy and contains 18% protein. This includes added Calcium and Phosphorus to promote good bone development which is crucial for increasing cow longevity in the herd.

SPECIAL OFFER - Order 5 Maize Silage Additives this September and get 1 free!



You can place your order for EcoCorn with your Bretts Technical Sales Representative.

Maize is an expensive crop to grow so just like anything of high value it would be unwise not to have insurance. It is vital to get the preservation of maize silage correct, to maximise the financial return from your investment. In recent years we have seen issues with moulds and the mycotoxins that they produce, causing performance issues with livestock and treating maize at ensiling with an additive reduces the risk of spoilage at the pit face.

Treated maize silage reaches aerobic stability three to five days faster than non-treated maize and maintains a lower temperature throughout feeding resulting in greater energy and dry matter yield. Treating maize at ensiling reduces secondary fermentation, keeps the pit face cool and stable at feed out and improves animal performance. Trials in dairy cows have shown milk yield response of up to 1.8 litres/cow/day. Available in both powder and liquid application, one bag or bottle of EcoCorn from Volac will treat 50T of Maize Silage.

Are Youngstock on Target?

