



## Beef blend

### General feeding beef cattle

Growing rations should be high in both structural fibre e.g. straw and digestive fibre e.g. sugar beet pulp. They should be high in protein and have a good level of energy to promote growth. Grower rations will be mainly forage-based. These will need to be supplemented with concentrates to add energy, protein and vitamins & minerals. Suckler calves can be introduced to beef blend as creep to achieve target growth rates. Feeding should start at least 4 weeks before weaning.

Finishing cattle require rapid live weight gain. High starch levels can promote fast gain and efficient feed conversion. When fed concentrates, animals will have more efficient feed conversion when they have access to forage to promote rumination and healthy gut health. However, dairy bulls would be better finished at lower protein levels than the beef blend as they tend to put on frame instead of finish. Cereals can be incorporated with beef blend where a higher starch level is required.

### Feeding rates & guides

This versatile feed can be fed to a range of stock at different stages of production, including both cattle and sheep. Energy levels are high at 13.2 MJ/kg and protein levels are 16%. Although mineralized, copper is not present making it also suitable for feeding to sheep. High quality ingredients are included and a high level of cereals ensures fast growth rates and maximum feed conversion efficiency. Energy sources include digestible fibre making it safe to feed, without the risk of acidosis.

### Key components and reasons for inclusion

Only high quality ingredients are included, such as sugar beet pulp, barley, distillers and molasses. Poorer quality ingredients such as oatfeed & sunflower etc are not included. Crude Protein level is 16% and metabolizable energy is high at 13.2 MJ/kg DM resulting in high growth rates.

### Disclaimer

Rations should be carefully balanced in terms of nutrient content. They should contain sufficient forage to maintain rumen function and be fortified with an appropriate vitamin and mineral supplement on farms where this is needed. Animals must have constant access to clean water. Suggested feeding rates are produced as a guide only and many other factors may have an overriding effect on animal response; no performance guarantee can be given. Ingredients are generally as in the table above, but are subject to change.





## Ingredients

Typical Ingredients	Metabolizable Energy	Crude protein	Benefits / Reason for use
Barley	13.2	12.3	High in energy, good energy source for live weight gain. High in starch of which 10% is digested after the rumen.
Sugarbeet	12.5	11.0	Can stimulate intakes of less palatable feeds, increasing intake and growth rate. Provides the building blocks for lean tissue growth. Allows energy intakes to be increased without increasing the risk of acidosis associated with cereal feeding. Assists in maintaining an optimum rumen pH, kind to the rumen.
Primestock pencils	13.0	16.0	Good quality pencil which is readily digested.
Barley distillers	12.2	26.0	Good energy levels and high in protein with some supplied as by-pass.
EU wheat distillers	13.8	34.0	Intakes of other feeds can be stimulated. Good sources of energy and protein. Can stimulate rumen activity, encourages fibre digestion and feed efficiency. Allows energy intakes to be increased without increasing the risk of acidosis associated with high starch feeds.
Malt residuals	11.2	21.0	High digestible fibre and lower starch content. Allows high levels to be fed safely.
Wheatfeed	11.7	18.0	Useful source of starch. Balanced supply of readily digestible fibre, protein and starch.
Molasses	11.3	5.4	High in sugar making it very palatable. Used to bind the blend or pencil together.
Vitamins & minerals			Well balanced mineral supplement, excludes copper
<b>Element</b>			<b>Reason for inclusion</b>
Vitamin A	Essential for eye function and beneficial to reproduction / fertility in cattle.		
Vitamin D <sub>3</sub>	Essential for bone formation and hence growth, involved with calcium and phosphorous absorption.		
Vitamin E	Antioxidant working closely with Selenium in preventing formation of peroxides. Peroxides damage cells. Essential for fertility and for pregnant animals to pass onto young calves.		
Selenium	An antioxidant plays a vital role in immunity. Benefits reproduction and growth. Protects muscles from degeneration. Helps to prevent retained placentas.		
Copper	Essential for bone formation, cardiac function, immunity, reproduction and fertility.		
Magnesium	Essential for growth, repair of body tissue, bone development and milk yield. Needed for enzymes, muscle and nerve function.		
Phosphorous	One of the most important elements being involved with energy production, bone and teeth formation, appetite and reproduction.		

