

# Focused on Farming



DECEMBER 2013 ISSUE

## Starch for dairy & beef cattle

David Lewis

This year we are seeing maize and wholecrop silages that are high in starch which can be a real boost to cattle. Cereals are also looking more sensibly priced which again is a great benefit. However, these circumstances come together to potentially result in a starch overload.

### Starch overload

So what can be done? The first step is to get your maize and whole crop silage analysed to see what starch levels are. In some cases you can use forages like big bale silage or haylage to help dilute the starch levels down. Alternatively you can use protected cereals such as Pro-wheat or Pro-barley. Part of the starch is protected in the rumen and the portion that is broken down in the rumen breaks down more slowly. This makes these products more rumen friendly resulting

The third prong of attack is Actisaf yeast. Actisaf is a protected live yeast, meaning it doesn't get destroyed by the environment in the gut. The live yeast is protected from heat and acid by a layer of dead yeast cells, which means that more yeast cells reach the rumen alive. Actisaf stabilizes rumen pH by reducing the build-up of lactic acid, which causes acidosis.

Ask your rep or ring the office about having your silage analysed, Pro-wheat & Pro-barley and Actisaf yeast.



## For more present ideas see back page



**Hoggs of Fife**  
Cable knit  
stockings £14



**Fold n Go dolls house**  
/ stable / barn



**Hoggs of Fife**  
Highland handbag  
£39.99

## Monthly offers

### Animal health

Pro-rumen **£8 + VAT**

Pro-rumen helps in the establishment of bugs in the rumen and is used for animals recovering from digestive upsets, such as acidosis or bloat.

Mole traps **buy 4 get 1 free**

**Ring us for a special price on full pallets of dog food.**

### Hardware

9ft galvanised sheep feed troughs **£23 + VAT**

50m rolls of rabbit wire

**£29 + VAT**

Ex Masham

**While Stocks last!**

**Fodder beet available to buy at competitive prices!**



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## Christmas & New Year Closures

Please organise your deliveries around Christmas, we need one weeks notice for deliveries at this time. We will be closed on the

**following days: -**

Wednesday, 25th December

Thursday 26th December

Wednesday 1st January

# A word to the wise...

Neil Edminson

During the course of 2013 there were a number of thefts of fertilizer, particularly ammonium nitrate. Back in September 62 tonnes of ammonium nitrate were taken from a farm in Lincolnshire, whilst six 600 kg bags of ammonium nitrate was stolen near to Horncastle. To make sure you've done what you can to minimize the risks of this occurring on your farm, you need to follow '10 Point Plan' for fertilizer security.

The Plan can be viewed at [www.secureyourfertilizer.gov.uk](http://www.secureyourfertilizer.gov.uk) together with general advice on security. The 10 points are:

- 1) Do not store fertilizer where there is public access.
- 2) Do not leave bags of fertilizer in the field overnight.
- 3) Do not store fertilizer near to, or visible from, the public highway.
- 4) It is an offence to sell-on ammonium nitrate fertilizer without the proper certification (detonation resistance certificate).
- 5) Do retain and file all fertilizer delivery notes.
- 6) Ensure that your fertilizer is in a secure location.
- 7) Do, wherever possible, and with regard to HSE safety guidance, store fertilizer inside a locked building or compound
- 8) Do fully sheet fertilizer when stored outside and regularly check to ensure that the stack has not been tampered with.
- 9) Do carry out regular, frequent stock checks.
- 10) Do report any unexplained stock discrepancy or loss/theft to the police immediately.

In addition, you should always purchase your fertilizer from a FIAS approved supplier.

## Fertility & minerals for beef cattle

Peter Harland

With fertility issues in beef cattle, it is vital to find out where the problems are happening. For example, are cows coming bulling? Are embryos being lost? Are cows aborting later in pregnancy? Although many fertility issues are due to energy & protein imbalances, specific fertility issues can be tied to specific mineral deficiencies.

- Phosphorus deficiency can result in irregular oestrus, however reproductive issues usually only manifest after other signs of P deficiency are apparent.
- Copper is associated with cows not coming bulling and also early embryonic death. You can recognize copper deficiency particularly easily in black coated cattle as they appear rusty in their coats with "spectacles" around their eyes.
- Early embryonic death can be due to selenium deficiency. However, the more obvious signs will be retained placenta after calving.
- Manganese deficiency is associated with delayed or irregular oestrus and poor conception. However, deficiency is rare.
- Iodine is essential for foetal growth and development. Typical signs are late abortions, presenting as still-born or weak calves. Neonatal mortality is markedly increased. Cows deficient in iodine tend to retain their cleansings.

- Cobalt deficiency can also lead to reproductive problems including reproductive developmental issues in young cattle.
- Zinc deficiency can result in problems with bulls in terms of reproductive function.

Ask your rep or ring the office for a quote on our range of mineral supplements.



**USEFUL NUMBERS** Country Store 01765 680215 • Nick Bowkett 07715 994178 (Product Sales) • David Lewis (Sales) • Graham Jameson 07802 253060 (Sales) • Jonathan Stansfield 07732 396078 (Grain Buyer / Fertiliser Sales) • Peter Harland 07803 116410 (Sales) • Ruth Lawson 07725 263050 (Nutritionist)



# Hurting your pocket

Graham Jameson

Farmers rearing calves either home-bred or bought-in need to be on the lookout for coccidiosis. Animals will have diarrhoea containing mucus and sometimes blood and may strain to pass muck. Growth rate is affected and some stock may even die. Muck around the backend may indicate coccidiosis as can rough hair, this is particularly important when choosing calves at market.

Deccox stops the growth of coccidian and works well as a preventative and treatment before the gut wall is destroyed. It needs to be fed for a prolonged period as it stops the growth of coccidian rather than killing it. Jamesons can supply Deccox in feed with a prescription from your vet.

If you would like to have a test done for coccidiosis we can take a muck sample and have it tested for you. If you go on to purchase either feed or veterinary drugs from us, the lab fees will be waived.



# A question of balance

Dr Ruth Lawson

The liver is a hugely important organ in the dairy cow and is often under massive pressure particularly in early lactation. However, it is often overlooked by farmers and nutritionists alike. Clearly energy demands for milk yield in early lactation are high in dairy cows. Although dry matter intake is increasing, it lags behind the increasing energy demands, resulting in negative energy balance. Cows can mobilize more than 1kg of body fat per day to try to compensate for this energy shortage. This body fat needs to be metabolized in the liver to supply energy. Excess mobilization of body fat puts great pressure on the liver, and is strongly linked to disorders such as ketosis, displaced abomasum and retained placentas. This means that liver problems are detrimental to performance and health. Feeding fat in early lactation can provide a boost of concentrated energy, but this again has to go through the liver, placing more strain on an already over-worked organ. If additional energy is needed, mono-propylene glycol has been effective in reducing plasma NEFA and the severity of fatty liver at calving.

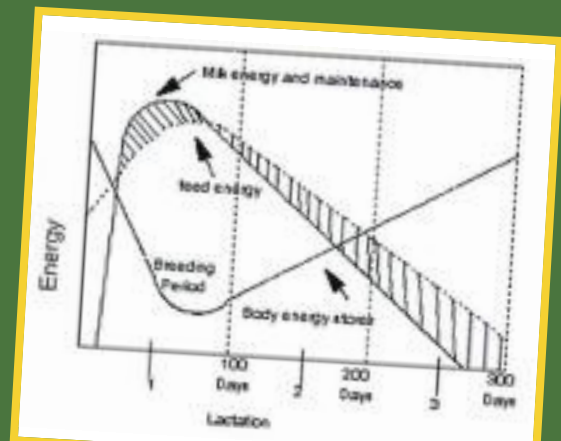
Reducing the peaks and troughs of energy balance is crucial in the prevention of liver problems. There are numerous ways in which this can be achieved. For example, avoid fat cows in the dry period and avoid dietary changes. Cows should enter the dry period with an average body condition score of 3-3.5, with condition being manipulated during late lactation rather than in the dry period. Diets should be formulated to cause cows to produce milk in late lactation rather than divert their reserves to body condition.

Formulating a glucogenic diet (using starchy ingredients) will promote fertility in early lactation. Feeding energy sources such as rolled maize and Pro-wheat will provide an energy boost without upsetting the rumen.

Early lactation diets should be formulated so that cows do not lose body condition. Feeding a transition diet containing similar ingredients to the early lactation one will help the transition from dry to milking cow. This can be achieved by feeding our transition cow rolls which are correctly mineralized for dry cows.

Minimizing stress is important for prevention of fatty liver, for example sudden changes in ration, housing herdmates, temperature may cause reduction in intake and trigger increases in fat mobilization. Also, shortage of feed space and over-crowding will result in a higher incidence of fatty liver in herds.

**Ask us about rolled maize, Pro-wheat & Pro-barley.**



# Searching for present ideas

Christmas is on the way, why not ask our assistants in the Country store to help you pick a lovely gift for your husband, wife, granny, the dog..... Get them something they really want this year.



Fold n Go dolls house / stable / barn

Derlington neoprene lined wellies half price was £79.99, now only £38.95



Hoggs of Fife Highland handbag £39.99



Leslie Gerry kitchenware



Bruder / Siku farm machinery

Hoggs of Fife Cable knit stockings £14

Dora design gifts



John Rothery hip flasks – lovely designs only £19.99



## Accounting and Taxation Services - The Barker Partnership

Come and visit Fiona Wilkinson in Masham Town Hall, Wednesdays 2-5pm or call **01969 623137**

*Initial meeting free of charge for new clients*

the **barker** partnership  
chartered accountants

### Contractors / Service

Agricultural Electrician, J R Graham. Fault finding and repairs, breakdowns, new installations, lighting, security, 3-phase. Tel John on 07595 620935 or 01423 323436.

Fencing Contractors, A and S Corner, Easingwold. Call Andrew for a competitive quote: 01347 823645.

Grassland subsoiling, aerating, ploughing, reseeding & overseeding. Harrogate / Ripon area. Steven Brown 07920 884575.

Cattle freeze-branding, North Yorkshire. Tel Steve Johnson 07940 064991 or 01347 810980.

Fencing Contractors David Robinson. Leyburn 07762 317201.

Agri Pest management. Agricultural pest control - rats, mice, moles, rabbits & insects. Tel. Nick 07716 467460 or 01765 640 867.

Slitting and over-seeding in one pass. Sward lifting, slurry tanking, ploughing, man & tractor and concrete grooving. Tel. Mike 01765 689 039.

Rhodes Feed Services for on-farm rolling, grinding, mill & mix services. All areas covered. 01759 318230 or 07811 432127.

All types of fencing work. 3 tonne Digger hire. Ditching, lane repairs etc. Simon Poulter 07751 553504.

5t digger for hire, with or without operator. Andrew Donaldson 07753 637638.

Fencing, Forestry and Groundworks Contractor. WM Rural Contractors, Yorkshire. Contact Will McDermott 07791335602 for a competitive quote.

Fodder beet cleaner to hire. Mike Swainston 01765 689039

### For Sale & Wanted

Barney's farmhouse foods. Homemade jams, chutneys, marmalades, sauces & cakes for sale. Tel. 01423 780207 or email anneoxenfarm@yahoo.co.uk

Limousin Bulls. Tel John Swales 07713 322245 or 01845 597339.

Angus bulls for sale or hire. Peter Turnbull 01347 868236 or 07836 370253.

Hillam rotaspreader. Very good condition. Can deliver. Tel. Cooper 07714291533.

Quality Blonde pedigree bulls 18-20 months. Also, bulling heifers. I & WA Todd Pickering 01751 460203 or 077650 35582.

Kuhn Euromix 11 – 1999. Excellent working order – refurb. last season. £4000. Tel. Paul 07971776671.

105 tried and tested Heitime collars with 2 readers. Ripon area. Offers to 01765 620325.

Teagle Tomahawk 404 Round Bale Straw Chopper v.g.c. £1,400. Tel: 01765 677320.

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