For more present ideas see back page

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 in the third prong of attack being starch overload.

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.

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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!

For more present ideas see back page

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

Hoggs of Fife
Cable knit stockings £14

Fold n Go dolls house / stable / barn

Hoggs of Fife
Highland handbag £39.99
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 cleanings.

- 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.

A word to the wise... Neil Edinson

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 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.
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.

Accounting and Taxation Services - The Barker Partnership

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

For Sale & Wanted

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

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


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

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