

## FEED FOCUS - Revolution

GRAHAM JAMESON

For modern high genetic merit dairy cows, programmed to produce high yields, Revolution dairy cake will help them achieve their potential. With energy levels at 14MJ/kg DM, milk yield will be high as well as giving fertility a boost in early lactation through improved body condition. Glucogenic ingredients are included which also promote good fertility. Choose from a protein level of either 18 or 20%.

Only high quality ingredients are included, such as wheat, EU distillers grains, sugar beet pulp, molasses, hipro soya and megalac. Poorer and more variable ingredients such as bakery waste etc are not included; this is also indicated by the overall fibre level of the concentrate which is approximately 6.8%.

Vitamin E deficiency may increase the risk of metritis, retained placenta and mastitis; with this in mind Revolution contains correct levels of vitamin E. Selenium is also needed for optimal functioning of the immune system and has been shown to help prevent mastitis. Selenium is supplied from a protected source (Selplex, a seleno yeast) and sodium selenite works in conjunction with Vitamin E. Copper is supplied in four different forms some of which are rumen protected.

Revolution dairy cake provides the cow with the best opportunity for a successful lactation.

**For more information and to see our specs please visit [www.wejameson.co.uk](http://www.wejameson.co.uk)**

## Backing it both ways

DR RUTH LAWSON

Using feed blocks or buckets may be a back-up option for ewes in mid and late pregnancy. Buckets and blocks will provide supplementary minerals and vitamins as well as a supply of energy and protein. Where sheep are roaming over a large area, not all of them will come when you feed them cake so having a back-up plan can help avoid ones getting twin lamb disease. Also, blocks and buckets will help the young and the old. Old girls that haven't many teeth left will find the blocks easy to lick and if they don't manage to eat enough cake in time will be able to lick at the blocks all day long! The younger ewes that tend to be shy feeders will also benefit from a top up of energy.

Apart from the extra energy and protein, ewes will also take key vitamins and minerals from the buckets and blocks. Vitamin E is needed to help the immune system and prevent White Muscle Disease in lambs. Selenium will boost immunity and is important for lamb vigour. Cobalt is an important constituent of vitamin B12, with deficiency causing poor growth and wasting in lambs.

**Ask us about our Dalesman Ease buckets & blocks. For more information and to see our specs please visit [www.wejameson.co.uk](http://www.wejameson.co.uk)**



ANIMAL FEEDS • FERTILISERS • SEEDS • COUNTRY STORE

# Focused on Farming



FEBRUARY 2013 ISSUE

## Fill her up!

PETER HARLAND

Do any cows have empty rumens on your farm? It pays to make a daily check of the cow's feed intake, in particular the risk groups - the fresh and close up dry cows. If you look on the left side of the cow, behind the last rib, you'll get an idea of rumen fill in your herd. If you see a hollow triangle like the cow in the photo, this cow did not eat enough today. Poor rumen fill in individual cows could indicate health issues. If a number of cows are the same, this could indicate a problem with ration composition and digestion.

Another indicator that the rumen is functioning efficiently is cudging behaviour. Cows should cud 55-70 times for each cud. Less than 55, in combination with an empty rumen can mean a lack of roughage in the diet.

To check you should also push on the rumen to score the resistance. Soft and gassy is bad news, but very firm is best.

Belly fill is scored by standing behind the cow, look to see if the rumen is visible on the left side. If not, the cow did not eat enough in recent days. To check feed intake over the last month you score the body condition by picking up some skin in between the pin bone and the tail. If it is a deep hole with only skin, she did not get enough feed last month. If there is some fat under the skin this would be perfect. If there is a lot of fat under the skin her diet is not balanced to production.

For more information have a look at the Cow Signals books by Jan Hulsen.

Full Rumen



For a cow in lactation there should be no hollowing of the rumen.

Empty Rumen



FCN Helpline:  
0845 367 9990

As winter draws in, the real costs of a wet summer are being realized for many farmers. FCN exists to help with many of the problems and concerns which may be worrying you. Our helpline is open every day of the year from 7 am to 11 pm.

FCN is a Christian farming charity which exists to support farmers and farming families. Our helpline and local volunteers are drawn from rural and agricultural backgrounds, we can help. We work with you to tackle problems, worries, or an overwhelming difficult time - isolation, ill health, relationship issues, financial, regulation, retirement and officialdom - anything at all - anytime and for as long as required.

### Contractors / Services

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.

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

### For Sale & Wanted

**FOR SALE** Pedigree Angus stock bull. 5 years. Good shape. Easy calving. IBR, Lepto, BVD & Johnes free. TB4. Ripon 01765 658646.

**FOR SALE** Good square Hay and Silage Bales. Harrogate/Otley area. Phone: 07934 574561

**FOR SALE** Hunt 1000 roller mill - good working order, complete with motor. £550. Bedale 07711 824325

**FOR SALE & WANTED** Quality Hay & Haylage. Tel: 07740 476066

**FOR SALE** Limousin Bulls. Tel John Swales 07713 322245 or 01845 597339

**FOR SALE** Barney's farmhouse foods. Homemade jams, chutneys, marmalades, sauces & cakes for sale. Tel. 01423 780207 or email [anneoxenfarm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:anneoxenfarm@yahoo.co.uk)

**FOR SALE** Holstein Bull: 16 Months Old. Bred from 8 generations Ex or VG. Working very well. Tel: 01325 378237.

**WANTED** lamb creep feeders. Tel. 07714 846317

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## Monthly Offers



**Hug Rug range 10% OFF**

**Buckler boots range**

**10% OFF**



**Hunter wellies (adult) sale price £59**

**Claw mole traps**

**buy 4 get 1 free.**



**9' Galvanised Sheep trough (£27.50 + VAT)**

**10' Wooden Sheep trough (£20 + VAT)**

**9' Galvanised Cattle trough (£45 + VAT)**

**While stocks last**

# Amazing Maize

DAVID LEWIS

The poor season of 2012 has raised many issues about growing maize in future years. The continued dismal wet weather was not helpful in growing big yields of good quality maize. However, some crops were grown successfully and we must look at why that was. What did those growers do differently that gave them a good result and what can others do to maximize their chance of getting a better crop this year? Firstly and most importantly for last year, they selected a well-drained, south facing field. Then they ensured that the field was free from compaction and was well fertilized. Finally they selected a variety with good early vigour to grow away quickly.



Variety choice on a particular site is determined by evaluating how best to achieve both high yields and reliable quality for good animal performance. Achieving a good yield at the target quality of 30% dry matter and 30% starch is the aim.

Our seed is sourced from Limagrain who are now developing varieties with higher digestibility and, therefore, better animal performance. Any qualifying variety is stamped with the LG Animal Nutrition or LGAN logo. This award is only given to varieties with excellent all-round crop performance and which deliver silage of superior nutritional value.

## Activate class 12 - very early variety (LGAN variety)

Grown in Yorkshire since 2011, we can confirm this exceptional earliness. For an early maturing variety it can achieve good dry matter and starch levels. It is now on the NIAB Recommended list where it is the top variety for starch yield in the Less Favoured Area data.

It appears to dry down quickly at harvest giving a very nutritious feed. This variety will be suitable for marginal maize growing areas and is particularly suited to late sowing on good land (such as after an early first cut silage).



## Ambition class 9 - very high yielding (LGAN variety)

Again we have seen this variety grown locally since 2011. It has exceptional early vigour and gives a very big crop. It is very reliable with good yields even in the difficult 2012 season. It is on the NIAB Recommended list as the highest yielding early variety and tops the metabolizable energy (ME) and Cell Wall digestibility chart in the Less Favoured Area data.

It is by far the best variety for early vigour. Local crop reports back up the NIAB data, showing it combines a very high yield with good long cobs and early maturity. It matures at a similar time to Destiny and would probably out-yield it on better land. We expect this variety to become a big seller.

## Artist class 10 - excellent for good soil

Again, a high yielding variety with a good maturity. Suitable to grow on good land where an early harvest is required. Good starch and ME values can be obtained.

## Crescendo - Mr Consistency

In the UK, there is still a large amount of this variety sown each year because of the consistent yields. Grown since the 1990's it achieves good yields and maturity every year and is very reliable. The cost of the seed is also in its favour.

## Destiny - best selling

Destiny is a high yielding class 9 variety with good early vigour and has been widely grown since its introduction in 2003. It has been proven to be very reliable in many situations throughout Yorkshire and Durham. It is quick to ripen and provides a good consistent yield over several years.

## Yukon - tall high yielding

A Class 10 variety giving very high yields with superb starch yields. It has a good early dry down with excellent standing ability making it suitable for crimping (if the season is better!).

For more information contact David Lewis on 07710 600848 or office 01765 689666 or [www.wejameson.co.uk](http://www.wejameson.co.uk).

# Spring calving suckler cows

STUART HOLMES

The most critical time for suckler cow nutrition is from six weeks before calving through to six weeks after service. Correct body condition will minimize calving difficulties and help to get cows cycling again after calving.



Copper, selenium, iodine and vitamin E are essential for optimizing cow fertility. Forage mineral testing will tell you if your animals are deficient in these nutrients, you can ask your rep about having this done. Minerals and vitamins can be supplied by sprinkling minerals on top of the forage or by using buckets and blocks if cows would benefit from some energy and protein.

Don't forget the bulls as they need preparation too. In the eight weeks before joining cows, stock bulls should be supplemented with 2-3 kg of concentrate.

For more information please visit: [www.wejameson.co.uk](http://www.wejameson.co.uk)

## Chewing the fat (with Harry the Hogg)

DR RUTH LAWSON

**Dr Ruth:** So Harry how are things going? (note to self: never ask a sheep this question).

**Harry:** This year is great as us sheep have never run out of new (and imaginative) ways to end our lives. What with liver fluke, clostridial disease, worms.....

.....not to mention the more imaginative drowning (preferably in shallow water), head stuck in ring feeder (at side of public footpath), starvation (even when silage / concentrate / roots are available). Being frightened into a heart attack by imagining a dog is going to attack us. It's all go for us sheep thinking these things up!

**Dr Ruth:** Just suppose for a minute that you might not want to end it all. Perhaps you could eat Jamesons lovely hogg blend and do something useful with your life.

# Full of arms & legs

KATHRYN LAWSON

As its coming round to lambing season once again it's time to be thinking about vaccination of pregnant ewes. Ewes on the Heptavac-P Plus or Covexin 8 systems will be coming up for their annual booster.

Heptavac-P Plus provides effective clostridial protection and Pastuerella protection in breeding sheep. It is essential to give all replacement ewes two 2 ml doses at 4 to 6 weeks apart when they first join the flock. Also, don't forget to include any bought-in tups as they can sometimes get forgotten about. Giving the ewes a booster dose of 2ml annually at 4 to 6 weeks prior to lambing will ensure they have good immunity and high levels of antibodies which will be passed onto lambs via the colostrum.

Heptavac-P Plus is now available from the trade desk in 50ml, 100ml and 500 ml quantities, ask us for a price.

Covexin 8 vaccine provides protection against clostridial diseases, however does not provide protection against Pasteurella. Like Heptavac-P Plus, breeding ewes should be introduced into the vaccination programme when they join the flock with an initial dose of 5ml and a second dose of 2ml, 6 weeks later. This is followed up with an annual booster of 2ml at 2 weeks before lambing.



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