

Focused on Farming



JULY 2013 ISSUE

Feeding in late pregnancy to benefit the calf

PETER HARLAND

There are a number of ways in which nutrition can be improved during pregnancy to help the viability of the calf whether this is for dairy or suckler cows. Maternal deficiency of trace elements and vitamins in late pregnancy can compromise the immune system of the calf. This may increase susceptibility to scour, pneumonia, navel & joint-ill etc. Selenium is one element that crosses the placenta and so supplementation of cows in late pregnancy can increase reserves in calves.

Low dietary iodine during pregnancy has been associated with weak, low birth weight calves & increased mortality. Iodine is not stored by the cow so must be in the diet. However, this is not the case in sheep. Studies have shown that when iodine intake by the ewe was high in the final 2 weeks of pregnancy there was a significant negative impact on the lamb's ability to absorb IgG antibody from colostrum. Perhaps, like copper some minerals behave differently in different ruminant species. Although vitamin E doesn't cross the placenta, supplementing this vitamin results in much needed high vitamin E colostrum; vitamins A & D behave

in a similar way. Cows at grass have high levels of vitamin D (provided the sun shines). However, levels in housed cattle can be variable. It is advisable to feed dry cow minerals and vitamins for approximately 6 weeks pre-calving. It's also important not to forget your in-calf heifers!

Calving difficulty is often associated with fat cows. This profoundly affects calf health, as well as the subsequent lactational performance. Research has shown that calf mortality was 3% from normal calvings compared with 57% when calvings were severe. Moreover, calves that lived had poorer live weight gain. The protein requirement of the calf increases dramatically in the last 60 days of gestation; this is why dry cows benefit from being fed a high DUP concentrate. Where protein levels in the diet fall below 12%, colostrum quality will be reduced and calves will struggle.

Ask us about our:-

- Dalesman Dry Cow Plus buckets
- Transitional / dry cow minerals
- Transition cow rolls

Monthly offers

20% off all tack and riding safety equipment



10% off all riding gloves



Massive reductions on selected Toggi, Hunter & Rugged equine wear.



Animal health

Sheep & cattle

0.8 litres of Crovect 10% off
£24.55 + VAT

2.2 litres of Crovect 10% off
£45.45 + VAT

Buy 5 litres of Klik or more and get a free applicator gun worth £25

Flypor 1 litre reduced to
£29.99 + VAT

Horses & dogs

Embotape horse wormer
2 syringes for £15 (incl. VAT)

Animec horse wormer
2 syringes for £11 (incl. VAT)

10% off Prazitel dog wormers
2 tablets £5.45 or
8 tablets £17.26 (incl. VAT)

while stocks last!

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Feed focus: Jameson's Premium Beef nuts

GRAHAM JAMESON

Our Premium beef nuts can be fed to a range of cattle at different stages of production, including young actively growing animals & finishing stock. They can be offered ad-lib or restricted with forage. Energy levels are high at 13 MJ/kg and quality digestible protein levels are at 16%. Only high quality ingredients are included, such as wheat, rapeseed meal, barley, sugar beet pulp and molasses. High levels of barley & wheat at 30% provides good levels of starch and will put great finish on cattle. Digestible fibre sources are included and degraded at a slower rate than the cereal sources, resulting in a range of slow and fast release energy.

Jameson's Premium beef nuts are fully mineralized and also contain Actisaf yeast. Actisaf yeast results in up to 9% increased growth rate and improved feed conversion efficiency. Cattle fed Actisaf yeast will be more content, due to reduced incidence of acidosis and lameness, resulting in an average net return from using Actisaf of £50 per head. Also, our beef nuts contain good levels of copper to support a high growth rate in all beef animals.



Propcorn for 2013

DAVID LEWIS

With more spring barley in the ground and less winter wheat, storage of the harvested crop will need to be considered. The benefits of using propcorn as an aid to storage have been well proven over the years. Application gives a more palatable feed with fewer digestive problems compared with feeding dry cereals. Typically propcorn barley, stored at 17 to 18% moisture will roll far better and is less likely to shatter than dry barley at 14-15% moisture. Intakes and animal performance both improve as a result and with the ever increasing energy cost of drying grain, propcorn application is definitely a cost effective alternative.

We stock Propcorn in either 1000 litre IBC's or in 205 litre barrels for collection or for delivery from Masham.

We also have propcorn applicators in stock for sale should you need one.



Arla milk price

DR RUTH LAWSON

As suppliers to Arla will already know there is a financial incentive for additional litres produced over and above 2012 monthly volumes. 5ppl is payable on every litre over the 2012 comparable period.

For a farm that averaged 21 litres last year to get to 28 litres, without compromising cow fertility, health or milk composition and assuming medium quality grazing, the blend to match these conditions would cost £225 and the big bale silage £35/t. The extra 7 litres of milk costs 97p to produce (therefore 13.9p per litre). If the increased milk price is 37p, there is a margin of 23.1p per litre, for an extra 7 litres, this is worth £1.62.

For a herd of 120 cows this equates to extra income of £194 per day or £5821 per month.

Another consideration is calf milk replacer (CMR). Where farmers are feeding saleable milk to calves it would be useful to work out the comparison costs of using calf milk replacer against cow's milk. Assuming you use a top quality whey based calf milk replacer, such as Jameson's IMMU-Power, fed at 125g to make a litre, CMR works out at 21p per litre*. So it makes sense to sell the milk rather than feeding it to calves.

*Prices are based on bags of CMR collected from Jamesons. Discounts are available for tonne rates.



Fly strike

KATHRYN LAWSON

Blowfly strike is a major concern for farmers and tends to occur during warm and wet weather. Although, wet weather makes chemical preventive management difficult. When given favourable conditions of humidity and warmth, the entire life cycle from egg to adult can occur in less than 10 days. As many will recognize, affected sheep are usually restless and may bite or kick at the struck area. The fly's lifestyle is fairly awful! Eggs hatch within 24 hours and first stage larvae penetrate the skin using their hook like mouthparts and secreting enzymes which liquefy and digest the tissue. Larvae cause further skin and muscle liquefaction with secondary bacterial infection as they develop. Struck areas often attract other blowflies and further waves of strike.

The smell of wool grease and the presence of foot rot, urine soaked wool, skin diseases, scour, or infected cuts attract blowflies to sheep. Recently shorn sheep are seldom struck and effective control of gastrointestinal parasites and footrot, crutching and trimming can further aid in the control of flystrike.

High-cis cypermethrin pour-ons, such as Crovect provide protection for about 6 weeks, while the insect growth regulator pour-on, dicyclanil (Clik & Clikzin), provide protection for 10 and 16 weeks respectively.

We stock the following, please ask us for a price: -

- Crovect
- Clikzin
- Clik
- Spot on

Congratulations!

Congratulations go to our customers for results at Otley show. The Charolais sheep championship was won by Mr Tindall of Linton Springs Farm, Wetherby. Numerous wins were achieved in the Texel section by the Keighleys at Manderlea Farm, Pool-in-Wharfedale.



Ask Nigel (Interview with Jameson's seed specialist Nigel Rees)

Q What could I sow after maize or cereals?

Italian ryegrass can be sown after cereals or maize as a one year ley. Italian ryegrass has good establishment and can be sown either in autumn or spring. Jameson's No. 1 Big Hitter is an Italian ryegrass and Westerwolds one year mix, providing an extremely fast growing ley. It can be used for silage production or will provide very good grazing for early turnout in the spring.

Q What are the benefits of sowing Italian ryegrass?

Italian ryegrass offers a number of benefits. It can be drilled up to mid-September if you're following maize or cereals or alternatively you can wait until spring if it's going in after stubble crops or kale. You can then either plough it out for spring sown cereals or leave it for subsequent grazing or mowing throughout summer. If you choose to sow it in spring, it can be sown at least 2 weeks earlier than longer term leys as it germinates at lower soil temperatures.

Q When can I graze it?

Italian ryegrass can be grazed 6-8 weeks after sowing (when 4/5 leaves have grown) or cut 10-12 weeks after sowing. Autumn sowings may be lightly grazed in the same year and re-grazed in March prior to a silage cut.

Q Are there any other crops I should consider after maize or cereals?

Forage rye is a useful winter catch crop to go in after maize or cereals. It can provide winter keep for sheep or early spring grazing for cattle, although, it is costly to grow. There are a couple of benefits with forage rye. Firstly, it is more winter hardy than Italian ryegrass and secondly, it is ready earlier. Alternatively, you could choose Jameson's No. 11, a blend of Italian ryegrass, forage rape & main crop turnips.

You know you're a dairy farmer when...

1. You have experienced a wet tail to the face before breakfast.
2. You have seen your dog eat a week old placenta.
3. All beef cows look fat to you.
4. You have combined pyjamas and wellington boots to do midnight calf checks.
5. You've broken an Olympic track and field record running away from a bull.
6. You have witnessed a heifer nearly killing herself trying to jump a) over, b) under, c) out of or d) into something.
7. You have had to use some type of power tool to extract said heifer from said situation.
8. You have been shoulder deep in a cow.
9. You can name at least five antibiotics and their milk withholds off the top of your head, but you sometimes forget your kid's names.
10. You own more syringes and needles than a heroin addict but you recycle them anyway.



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.

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

For Sale & Wanted

For Sale - Pearson Jumbo Bed Former with Sub-Soiler Legs and Drag Tines £1500. Reekie Bed Tiller with Bed Former, good condition £2,500 o.n.o. Tel: Greensit 01677 460272.

4000 litres (approx) Müller DX bulk tank. Complete with compressors etc. Open to offers. Also, Bayerthorpe 100, 000 gallon slurry store 3 ring type £1000. Buyer to remove with both items. Tel. 01423 780624 or 07894634154.

Flat 8 Grab For Sale Stokesley Area £225. Tel 07860 363742.

2500 ltr bunded plastic diesel tank, electric dispenser Tel. 01677 470860 / 07753 637638

Wanted - 8ft Trailed mower. Contact Harvey 0775 9619804.

Barney's farmhouse foods. Home made 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

