

Focused on Farming



JUNE 2013 ISSUE

Have you got your blend right for grazing

DR RUTH LAWSON

After a long hard winter cows are now out at grass reducing both costs and workload. Any dairy farmers who haven't finalized their grazing diets should consider what they need to get out of a blend to complement grass. Ingredients should be selected that will provide rumen energy sources to balance the rumen nitrogen in grass. These energy sources should include a range of starch, sugar and digestible fibre sources so that the rumen bugs can maximize microbial protein supply.

Depending on grass quality sugar should be supplied from the grass, so its sources of starch and digestible fibre that are needed. Digestible fibre can be found in soya hulls and starch from rolled barley, wheat or maize.

Cows will also benefit from some bypass protein in the form of soya or protected rape. A supply of bypass protein will help to top up microbial protein supply to make up metabolizable protein requirements.

Some protected fat can also be included to supply bypass energy for high yielders. As this form of energy bypasses the rumen there are no effects on rumen stability.

Ask us to formulate a blend especially for you.

New lines

Hoggs of Fife ladies
Brody shirt
only £19.99



Farmers kid's
T-shirts
only £9.99



Offers

Buy any three packs of Unwin's seeds & get another pack free

Two for £10 on Westland garden products: -

- Bonemeal
- Growmore
- Fish, blood & bone

Wagg worker
17 kg chicken
& beef flavours:
was £11.99
now £10.49



Supadog active
was £19.99
now £17.49



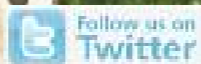
Pedigree misfits
dog chews
introductory offer
only £1



Box end galvanized gates
including spring bolt & eyes: -
6 foot £39; 7 foot £41; 8 foot £45;
9 foot £48; 10 foot £50; 11 foot
£54; 12 foot £55; 13 foot £61;
14 & 15 foot £65; 16 foot £73 ex
Masham.

Buy 10 Dalesman garlic or tri-mag
buckets and get one free.

Flypor one litre £29.99 + VAT



Stubble turnips

PETER HARLAND



Stubble turnips can provide a fast growing crop to help reduce the costs of finishing lambs. Based on current figures, cost per tonne of DM is £66, resulting in a cost per kilo of live weight gain of 17.9p (EBLEX figures). Stubble turnips can be sown between May and August depending on when they are to be used. It is important to choose fields that can be grazed over winter as the crop can't be lifted. Soil pH will need to be 6.5 or above and P and K status checked and adjusted accordingly.

Pests include flea beetle and slug damage. From sowing to feeding, allow 10-14 weeks and sheep can be set stocked. Animals will need a fibre source such as straw.

Varieties include Samson, Barkant & Delilah; Rondo & Tyfon. Samson produces huge roots and is very palatable. Delilah is ideal for finishing lambs and is resistant to mildew. Tyfon has a leafy habit with some regrowth potential. Rondo has excellent root anchorage which helps reduce wastage in the field.

Fancy a day out?



Why not attend the Livestock Event at the N.E.C. at Birmingham on the 3rd & 4th July? This year, livestock will feature more prominently with showing classes for both dairy and beef cattle. As well as visiting the vast

array of trade stands and viewing the latest machinery and equipment, there are demonstrations scheduled including ones on foot trimming & mixer wagons. You can hear about the latest developments in farm business management at the business debates or get practical advice on Farm Health Planning. Alternatively, explore the latest technologies in feed science in the dairy, beef, sheep, pig & poultry sectors.



Finishing beef cattle

GRAHAM JAMESON

You can't beat barley or crimped maize plus a protein concentrate for maximum finish and live weight gain in beef cattle. However, it is always a delicate balance between high starch levels for fast finish and rumen stability which can challenge animal health.

David & Austin Richardson finish suckler bred cattle at Bracken House Farm, Richmond, North Yorkshire. Young bulls and steers are purchased from local markets. Due to the current high store price, the Richardsons like to maximize the genetic potential of their cattle by taking them to 450kg deadweight.

Austin says, for the cereal part of the diet, we use 50% rolled wheat with 50% crimped barley. Austin believes that the crimped barley increases palatability and improves dry matter intakes. Cattle Pro Gold is then added at 12% of the ration which also contains Actisaf yeast. David says that natural proteins are preferred to non-protein (NPN), urea as it enables flexibility for feeding to younger cattle. Also, he thinks they grow better when fed natural protein sources. Urea should not be fed to young cattle or poorly grown ones as it results in poor growth rate as the rumen is not yet well enough developed. Since young animals do not produce enough microbial protein to meet requirements, NPN sources will not support maximum growth rates. However, for finishing cattle the protein requirement can usually be met through microbial protein. Grain is high in available energy needed to incorporate ammonia N (from urea) into microbial protein. This allows for greater use of urea in finishing rations. However, this assumes the rumen bugs are working well, which isn't always the case due to the rumen environment for finishing cattle. So some bypass protein (soya or protected rape) may help to meet protein requirement where rumen conditions are less than ideal.

For fast finishing beef cattle, providing straw will help prevent acidosis. In fact, wheat straw is preferred to barley as it provides more scratch factor in the rumen. Farmers could also consider including 10% soyahulls in high starch rations to help stabilize the rumen.

Care should be taken against the excessive use of by product ingredients such as brewers' grains, biscuit meal and waste chips which have upper inclusion levels due to their oil content. Too much oil coats the rumen bugs and can lead to acidosis and reduced dry matter intake.

David says their system provides a consistent diet and is easy to do. He says the trouble with waste products like chips and biscuit meal is the continuity of supply. Also, he says you need to be a nutritionist to get the diets right as each load can vary. As waste products are always priced relative to barley anyway, Austin & David prefer to stick with their home grown cereals.

With varying cereal quality this year, moist processing of the cereal is less destructive of the hull and reduces the likelihood of acidosis. To roll high moisture barley, some adjustment of the rollers is needed with roller tension reduced. This will reduce dust and stop grains coming out in the dung. Farmers should target moisture at 18%, this also results in less energy required in the rolling process than dry rolling. Molasses inclusion will also help palatability and reduce dust.

An effective changeover protocol is essential so that the population of rumen bugs can change from mainly fibre digesting to starch digesting bacteria. When cattle first come onto Bracken House Farm, they receive a vaccination for IBR and are wormed. During the growing phase, cattle are offered silage and fodder beet. The changeover regime takes 4 weeks with small increments of barley being fed to growing cattle over a period of a week. Then the growing ration is removed and the cattle are fed straw, by gradually building up the cereal component, cattle will be on ad lib by 3 weeks.

The protein requirement of finishing cattle declines with age when a greater proportion of their weight gain is fat, correct supplementation will result in cattle with good levels of finish and will be financially efficient. However, underfeeding protein can cost much more than overfeeding because of the resulting slow gains & poor feed conversion efficiency. Protein level in the finishing diet will depend on breed, with black & white bulls requiring a far lower protein level than continental animals. Holsteins have a propensity to lay down lean tissue rather than fat. As they grow older they can continue to grow frame without finishing. For black & white bulls, the diet should contain protein supplementation around 15-16% in the dry matter for bulls up to six to seven months old. However, black & white bulls at around 200 kg can move straight from rearing to finishing and will do best on a protein content of 14% in the DM or 12% as fed. Suckler bred or beef cross bulls from the dairy herd weighing over 200kg will respond best to finishing rations formulated with around 15% CP.

Aftercut fertilizer

DAVID LEWIS

At the time of writing no one had made any first cut silage but surely a lot will be clamped by the time this is read (the weather can't get that bad, can it?). Removing a large bulk from the land depletes the potash in the soil and this must be replaced, either by slurry or bagged potash or a combination of both. Nitrogen is also needed to boost yield alongside the potash so a grade of 24-0-15 is ideal.

Soil with a potash index of 2- requires 90kg/ha (72units/acre). If slurry is applied, a 1000 gallon application of undiluted slurry will provide 13 kg (26 units). This can significantly reduce the amount of bagged K required.

Nitrogen has dropped in price since spring but cannot be thought "cheap". However applying nitrogen during summer to boost production is more cost effective than buying silage or moist feeds during winter. Having clamps full of silage or big piles of bales does make you feel more prepared for the winter ahead.

In multi-cut situations on light land sulphur is likely to be deficient. In this situation 24-0-14 + 7.5SO₃ would be appropriate.

For further specific advice speak to your rep.

Show dates

North Yorkshire County	16 June
Howden	7 July
Great Yorkshire show	9-11 July
Malton	14 July
Driffield	17 July
Bishop Wilton	20 July
Bingley	20 July
Borrowby	31 July
Emley	3 August
Sykehouse	4 August
Halifax	10 August
Ripley	11 August
Egton	21 August
Malham	24 August
Reeth	26 August
Kilnsey	27 August
Stokesley	21 September
Nidderdale	23 September

An apology for being such a clot

GRAHAM JAMESON

Apologies for the title of my 'allright' item 'Farmers are doing 'allright' really', which I wrote for the April newsletter. With one customer explaining in no uncertain terms that 'farmers are NOT doing allright really.... I now realise that farmers are very busy people and some only read the titles of the articles in the newsletter and from these titles they make up what they think the article is about. Please read on before you get the wrong end of the stick. So I thought that was rather an amusing concept and decided to wade back through some old articles to see how amusing some of the titles are when read totally independently of the article.

April 2013 – To Creep or not to Creep – an article about how you should treat your wife.

March 2013 – Not Staggeringly Obvious – an article about spotting if you're in trouble with the wife.

January 2013 – Mats and Rice – well obviously an article about Mats and Rice

January 2013 – What's up pussy cat? – one for the feline lovers or the wife.

May 2012 – You are what you eat – well you guessed it, all thoughts of McDonalds' happy meals take their toll.

June 2012 – Built to last – an article about John England's transit van

January 2012 – Death, destruction and the environment – a very clever prediction of the shocking weather we have experienced throughout 2012.

May 2013 - Eating 'em alive – a study into cannibalism in Wharfedale.

February 2013 - Backing it both ways – an analysis of the gambling habits of our very own Mr Stansfield

September 2012 - Pippa Middleton – well what else could this be about?

My suggestion, please don't take our titles literally, it's only a bit of fun!

Livestock accommodation DAVID LEWIS

Well, what a long winter that was!! Buildings and equipment have taken a bit of a hammering from those extra weeks of housing.

Now that buildings are empty it's the time to think about renewing broken or tired equipment. These jobs always take longer than expected and an early start is recommended. We can supply gates, feeders, feed barriers and water troughs from both IAE and Bateman with many items in stock.

If bigger items such as a handling race or cubicle system are needed we can ask for someone from either company to visit and give advice before quoting.

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

2 pedigree Aberdeen Angus bulls. 14 months & ready for work. Johnes, BVD, IBR & leptos free. TB4. Ripon area. Tel. 01765 658646.

Massey Ferguson 124 Pickup baler. Very good condition. Richmond area. Tel. 01748 811576

Wooden chitting trays, U-trough auger good condition, Massey Ferguson 625 combine good condition. Bedale area. Tel. 01677 422169

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

Dog kennel 9' long, 8' wide, 5' high. Wooden construction – partitioned to suit 4 dogs. Harrogate area Tel. 07895 488002.

Wanted Cooks Flat 8 Bale Sledge Tel: Jack 01423 755641 / 07889 122978

