



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2017 EDITION

PENTOGUARD Silage Additive

Silage making has evolved over the years. Two changes that are the most notable are the increase of high sugar and low fibre grasses in seed mixes. Also farmers are applying more slurry in spring and between crops over summer. Whilst these are positive moves, they can lead to problems with fermentation of silages.

Even following a good silage making season, there can be a variety of problems with unstable or lactic silages which hampered animal production. For good animal performance, a stable, palatable silage is essential. To improve silage stability and dry matter intake we recommend PENTOGUARD silage additive.

Silages made with PENTOGUARD, are palatable and stable with no warming at the face. They have a pH of around 4 with no reports of highly acidic lactic silages that can occur with other additives such as those based on *Lactobacillus Plantarum*.

Pentoguard has four modes of action:

1 Xylanase enzyme that breaks down part of the undigestible fibre in grass to produce pentose sugars. The cellulose and hemi-cellulose fractions are not affected.



2 *Lactobacillus Buchneri* feeds on these sugars to produce both lactic and acetic acids. This balance of acids is more cow friendly with less chance of acidosis developing. Acetic acid also inhibits the formation of yeasts and moulds in the silage.

3 *Enterococcus faecium* acts to prevent the development of pathogens in the silage during fermentation and whilst feeding. Removal of any mycotoxins in silage is a big aid to animal production.

4 *Lactobacillus Lactis* SR3.54 has a unique ability to produce nisin which is known

to inhibit clostridia and other damaging gram positive bacteria, which helps to reduce DM losses in silage. Also, it will knock out yeasts & moulds which lead to aerobic spoilage.

Pentoguard is not only effective for grass silages but also wholecrop and maize. It is effective for grass and maize between 20 and 45% dry matter and up to 50% dry matter for wholecrop. It meets EU regulatory requirements and is available in sachets for dilution in water and applying at 2 litres per tonne.

WATCH THE MAG



- A suckler cow needs 30 g of magnesium every single day; our Dalesman Mag buckets supply 34g (at 200g per day).

- A dairy cow giving 40 litres needs 40g of magnesium per day. Our dairy cakes supply enough magnesium for these early lactation cows when fed at 7kg.

- We have seen some competitor's dairy cakes that only contain 0.35% magnesium, this means that even a cow eating 10kg will

still be short, so check the level on your cake.

- Rapidly growing grasses, such as re-seeds and well fertilized land, are very low in magnesium.

NEW!
**2017 PREMIUM
SEED CATALOGUE
RING for your
FREE copy**



TEL: 01765 689666

NEW MAIZE VARIETY!

PINNACLE reaching new heights for starch yield

Forage maize has become British dairy farmers' main alternative to grass silage in recent years, so selecting the right variety is essential to produce the highest quality feed. A brand new variety available from us this year is **PINNACLE**, which is set to become a first choice variety on the 2019 NIAB List offering the following attributes:

- HIGHEST variety available for starch yield.
- Combines a very high starch content with improved digestible fibre, to produce superb quality silage.
- Excellent early vigour for rapid early season growth.
- Early maturing and is suitable for all maize growing sites.
- Good eyespot tolerance.



Achieve your potential and grow Pinnacle!

Seed is limited in 2017 so please order early!

Maturity Class	Early Vigour	DM Yield	Starch Yield
9 VERY EARLY	EXCELLENT	*103% VERY HIGH	*113% TOP

*Estimated position on BSPB/NIAB First Choice Less Favourable List 2017 DEC NEWSLETTER

MAXIMISE YOUR GRASSLAND PRODUCTION

It's a realistic target to increase output from your grassland, whether grazed or conserved, that would benefit profitability and sustainability as grass is your cheapest source of feed available.

So why not utilise it?

Top livestock performers in the UK were achieving 15t of dry matter per hectare, yet the average quoted in the Farm Management Pocketbook was just 7.6tDM/ha. This highlights the majority of farms are falling well below their maximum potential, causing higher usage of concentrate feeds.

The average milk from forage in recorded herds was on average 2,000 litres/cow, just half that achieved by the top 10% herds

who are making far more of milk from forage. Grass and grass silage always works out substantially cheaper than bought in feeds so there is a massive opportunity for dairy, beef and sheep farmers to grow more, better quality grass. This will increase milk yields, or meat produced from the cheapest feed, resulting in higher margins.

A good starting point is to increase the rate of reseeded, which, on average is far lower than the required minimum to maintain swards at a high level of productivity.

It's also the perfect opportunity to introduce clover to the sward which has been proven to have the greatest potential impact on dry matter intake (DMI) and animal performance, especially red clover in silage. Studies have shown herbage legumes have a higher feed value and encourage higher intake than pure grass leys.

Extending the shoulders of the grazing season in autumn or early spring, has considerable potential for reducing production costs.

Improving soils, selecting the right mixtures and correct establishment and management all contribute towards maximising forage production and reducing your feed costs.

WEED CONTROL

High levels of weeds also impacts on grass production, outcompeting for space, light, water and nutrients, which then becomes unpalatable to stock. Grassland sprays can help renovate a pasture to a more productive level, improving yields and quality.

In an industry with low output prices increasing efficiency is of paramount importance, and the solution is growing under your feet!

If you need a soil sample arranging, or advice on grass leys: 01765 689666

For grassland sprays: 01765 680215

SPRING RESEED - WELL WORTH THE INVESTMENT!

A well managed reseed, established in good conditions, will produce more grass and feed more stock, but on many farms that benefit is lost within 5-8 years.

From the first day a ley is established there is a continual decline in the percentage of sown species as weed grasses and broad leaved weeds move into the sward. Typically after 6 years a medium/long term ley could contain less than 60% ryegrass, even under good management. This impact of declining ryegrass content results in a drop in both yield and quality.

A young perennial ryegrass ley should yield well in excess of 10t DM/ha/yr in the first few years of its life. Much of this yield and quality is driven by a high response to applied nutrients; for every **kg** of nitrogen applied (from bag/slurry or clover) you could see a **25kg DM** response from a young vigorous sward at peak growing time.

Old leys may struggle to produce 6t DM/ha/yr and quite often, because of poor response rates, they may need greater nutrient inputs to achieve even that. The drop in yield is gradual and often goes unnoticed, unless production is being measured. Resulting in poorer quality, more expensive grass.

When ryegrass falls below 50% - time to reseed

The table below is taken from AHDB and shows how a typical hybrid and perennial ley can decline in productivity. Highlighting if you try to stretch the life of a ley how costs will increase rapidly.

Reseeding benefits reminder:

- Increased production
- Better livestock performance
- Improved sward quality and feed value
- Opportunity to Introduce more prolific varieties
- Better response to fertiliser
- Remove weed species
- Improve soil structure and drainage
- Opportunity to include clover to fix nitrogen

Advantages of a spring reseed

Spring reseeds have several advantages over autumn reseeds. Soil conditions can deteriorate as autumn progresses

Age of ley	T DM/HA/YR	Cost p/kg DM	Average quality ME	Cost to replace energy with concentrates (£/ha)
1	13	10	12	
2	12.5	10.4	11.8	127
3	12	10.8	11.6	240
4	11	11.8	11.5	410
5	9.7	13.4	11.4	637
6	8.4	15.5	11.3	864
7	7	18.5	11.2	1105

– lower soil temperatures can reduce seed germination, and variable weather conditions also reduce the chances of grazing the new sward. The opportunity to apply a post-emergence spray in autumn is also reduced as ground conditions are often unsuitable for machinery. Pest damage can also be a problem in the autumn. A springtime reseed can offer the following advantages in comparison to an autumn reseed:

- Better soil conditions
- Reduced chance of grazing the new sward
- No heading in first season for perennial ryegrass
- Opportunity to hit weeds before they get established. If grass is actively growing it has a better chance to outcompete weed species
- Minimal impact on grazing. Reseeding at the time of maximum grass growth may well mean you are not short of grazing elsewhere on the farm, so can afford to have that areas out of production
- Timeliness – bad weather conditions in early autumn is not creeping up on you putting the reseed in jeopardy
- The probability of a good take of seeds in ideal spring growing conditions

If you decide to establish white clover a spring reseed is more reliable than in autumn due to the stability of soil temperatures in late spring. Also post emergence spraying for weed control is usually very successful with spring reseeding due to favourable weather conditions in summer. It generally takes a sward around 11 months to fully establish, so good grazing management in that early growth phase is very important.

At Jameson's we can supply all your grass seed and spray requirements to suit your production system.

VACCINATING CATTLE AT TURNOUT

Vaccinating cattle against clostridial disease makes sound economic sense as the vaccines are inexpensive yet the diseases can be devastating.

Often the first you know is a dead beast. Clostridial diseases of cattle include black disease, blackleg, malignant oedema, tetanus and botulism. Clostridial spores are widespread particularly in soil. Disease in cattle is triggered by damage to body tissues activating disease spores. This is followed by very rapid multiplication in the animal's body with toxins produced, causing death within hours. The response to antibiotic treatment is very poor. Prevention of clostridial diseases by vaccination is standard practice in sheep and should be seriously considered in cattle where there is a history of disease on the farm or where risk factors exist.

"Get ready for Turn Out"

FREE Invitation evening
Tuesday 21st March 6.30pm
at W.E. Jameson's, HG4 4EL
Ring to book your place
01765 680215

FREE Supper and Exclusive Offers on the night

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Time for reflection

Many of you will be in the thick of lambing and we trust its going well. When you get finished and have time to reflect, it's worth thinking whether the sheep cake you used performed as well as it could have done.

It is possible to achieve an 18% sheep cake with relatively little cost. But, it's not so easy to do this using ingredients that bring energy with them and even trickier to also include good quality protein sources with a good amino acid profile and by-pass protein. However, our Ewedale Gold sheep cake does just that. High levels of energy (13.2MJ/kg DM) will ensure good milk production and strong lambs. We don't use protein ingredients that don't contain much

energy such as sunflowers. Also, there are no filler ingredients in as these as they would reduce energy levels.

Our sheep cake contains high levels of DUP (by pass protein). This will ensure good lamb birth weights and high levels of immunity, especially to parasites.

Selenium is provided at the correct level with some in a protected form to ensure optimal functioning of the immune system. Calcium, Phosphorus & Magnesium are included at correct levels to reduce the risk of hypocalcaemia. Salt is included to help buffer the rumen and avoid acidosis.

Our Ewedale range of sheep pencils & rolls supply a good supply of vitamin E at 150 mg/kg which is essential for lamb vigour.



Rumen fill in dairy cows

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 below, 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.

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

Cudding indicates adequacy of long forage fibre fraction in the diet, rumen health, good rumen pH and a lack of acidosis. At least 60% of cows should be cudding at any one time. Where fewer cows are cudding, check for other indicators of sub-acute rumen acidosis or SARA such as hyper-ventilation (rapid breathing), lame cows, cows paddling on their feet, loose muck, dirty backs caused by tail swishing, low butterfat percentage, dirty coats etc. Cud counting is a useful guide to assess the adequacy of structural fibre in the diet. Count the number of times cows chew each cud. 65 to 75 chews per cud is optimum. Where cud counts are below 60, rumen function can usually be improved by adding more structural fibre to 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 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, she ate too much, or her diet is not balanced to production.



MARCH CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

10/11 TON TRIFFIT grain trailer: Hydraulic door, chute and fitted sheet. Immaculate condition £5,750 ono. Tel: Peter 07752 031336

32 FT FLAT TRAILER - comes with tandem axle S/S wheels, new floor £2950 no VAT.

MORRIS CATTLE CRUSH c/w new floor - £200 no VAT.
Tel: 07860 786683 / 01765 658693

ANGUS BULL - PEDIGREE, nearly 3 years old. Harrogate. Tel: John 07714 288842

LAYTHAM SLURRY GUZZLER open top tanker, galvornised, 2200 gallons in good condition. Tel: 01765 689365

MARSHALL 14T SILAGE/GRAIN TRAILER - sprung axle and drawbar. Super single wheels, hydraulic back door. V.G.C. £6,500 o.n.o. Richmond area
Tel: 07710 680635 or 01748 823276

HAY - Small bales - £4.50/bale.

RING FEEDER - (tomb stone), suitable for horses, large haylage £150 ono. Weekend collection. Snape area.
Tel: Watson 07715 002908

HAY AND SILAGE - 4ft and 5ft square bales. Stored inside. Tel: 01969 640243 after 6pm

FREE FOR COLLECTION - Trowbridge type pig finishing houses, sectional and free standing. Tel: 01751 431702

POINT OF LAY CHICKENS - Warrens, Blue Bells, Light Sussex, Black Rock, Copper Black, Marans, Silver Sussex, White Star, Amber Link, RIR x LS & Cheshire Blue. Tel: Bedale 07746 940791

SMALL BAUER IRRIGATION REEL - In full working order last time it was used.
FIFTY 20ft x 3" BAUER pipes. Offers accepted Bedale. Tel: 07711 824325

WANTED:

HILLAM SUPER SLAVE MUCK SPREADER -

Rotating barrel type machine.
Tel: 01748 886412

W E Jameson & Son Ltd, Foxholme Lane Mill, Masham, N Yorkshire HG4 4EL
Tel: 01765 689666 • Fax: 01765 689662 • www.wejameson.co.uk

