AROUND THE MARKETS

At the Jameson sponsored cattle sale at Otley auction, the highest price cattle prize went to the Gathirops from Bradford with a blue bull selling for £475 fed on Jameson IMMU-Surge calf milk and our calf weaner pellets. The Gathirops also went on to win the annual calf show at Otley, winning the O’Cassie Wood trophy. Then they won our native cattle sale with a Herefurd bull at £335.

The Barretts from Leathley took both the top shearing at £90 and top prime lambs at Otley sales, they use prickstow pencils.

It was a case of the limts beating the blues at Leyburn, when two limi bull calves achieved top at £590 & £570 from GE & M Stockill. And the Angus beat the blondes with an angus bull calf at £335 for the Moors from Seaham using Jameson IMMU-Surge and youngstock blend.

The top black & white bull calf came from the Turnbulls from York when two limi bull calves achieved top at £590 & £570 from GE & M Stockill. And the Angus beat the blondes with an angus bull calf at £335 for the Moors from Seaham using Jameson IMMU-Surge and youngstock blend.

Type of protein is also a consideration for finishing cattle. Protein requirement for finishers can be met through microbial protein in the rumen. So with strong, well grown, healthy cattle, urea can be incorporated into the protein pellet or meal. For cattle that have struggled a bit in the growth phase, natural proteins work better. Young animals, less than 4 months of age or less than 270kg will need to avoid urea as their rumen isn’t well enough developed.

For last finishing beef cattle, incorporating yeast into the protein component is essential to prevent acidosis and lameness issues. 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 digestible yeast cells, resulting in more yeast cells reaching the rumen alive. Actisaf stimulates rumen pH by reducing the build-up of lactic acid, which causes acidosis. It reduces rumen oxygen content and stimulates the growth of rumen organisms, increasing rumen efficiency. So with strong, well growing or finishing cattle, microbial protein must be met through microbial protein in the rumen. So with strong, well grown, healthy cattle, urea can be incorporated into the protein pellet or meal. For cattle that have struggled a bit in the growth phase, natural proteins work better. Young animals, less than 4 months of age or less than 270kg will need to avoid urea as their rumen isn’t well enough developed.

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**Sweeten up your grass**
Graham Jameson

Can you increase stocking rates and profitability next year? Now is the time to plan for the future to balance numbers of livestock with acreage of grass.

It is important to all of the agricultural industry that we maintain viable farms that can prosper and grow as without you our business will also suffer and decline. We therefore believe that now is the right time for W E Jameson & Son Ltd to strengthen our partnership with our customers by offering confidential grassland technical consultancy. In order to provide this specialist service we have employed Neil Pickard, an ADAS Consultant for 38 years, who has a sound knowledge of many farming systems having managed all of the ADAS Farms (over 10,000 acres) during his career.

The majority of our existing grassland could be improved to increase both yield and quality substantially if greater attention to detail in growing the crop was provided in a similar manner to most arable farmers. The key basics to growing higher yields are as follows:

- Optimum soil pH and phosphorus and potassium status (tested within last 5 years?)
- Good soil structure through effective drainage, elimination of compaction and avoiding poaching in wet conditions to ensure good rooting
- Ensuring a high percentage of productive grass and clover species within the sward (ryegrass content?)
- Controlling pests and diseases can lead to improvements in yield and quality
- Appropriate levels of nitrogen fertiliser and farmyard manures applied at the correct timings throughout the season.

High yields of good quality grass can support higher stocking rates and the production of sufficient silage and hay for the winter. If you are interested in our Grassland Technical Support then contact Graham Jameson on 01765 680210 for further information on how you can benefit from our partnership with Neil Pickard.

**Is dairy good for you?**
Jake Lakin

Some of the general public think that dairy products are high in fat and cause an increased risk of heart disease. However, recent data shows that there is no evidence that people who drink a lot of milk and dairy products are at a higher risk of cardiovascular disease than those who eat low amounts. One study showed that compared with the 20% of people who ate little or no dairy, the 20% who had the highest intake of dairy products had a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease: the reduced risk was equivalent to about 8% for coronary heart disease, 20% for stroke and 15% for diabetes.

In fact, people who drink a lot of milk tend to have lower blood pressure than those who drink less milk. It may be that this is a key finding, as increased blood pressure is a recognized important risk factor for cardiovascular disease. This is supported by other detailed studies which show that calcium and some proteins in milk can help lower blood pressure. So keep drinking the white stuff – it's a health food.

**A turn up for the books**
Dr Ruth Lawson

Farming representatives in Ireland are resistant to changing their production system to meet British supermarket requirements. They want to continue to use continental, Charolais, Simmental bred cattle taken to bigger weights and ages – which doesn’t meet supermarket spec. If the resistance continues, it could leave the UK’s market open for home-produced beef. The supermarket demand for less than 30 months is driven by eating quality and the lower carcass weight from consumer demand for smaller joints.

**Rats**
Kathryn Henry

As of the 1st June 2016 it is a legal requirement for anyone wishing to use rodenticides to hold a certificate of competence. If however you are farm assured registered you can use your membership number as proof of competence up until 31st December 2017. Anyone wishing to purchase rodenticides and does not hold either a certificate of competence in the safe use of rodenticides or holds a farm assurance membership will only be able to buy a quantity of 1.5kg. Therefore if you wish to purchase a larger quantity than 1.5kg and hold either certificate you must present it at the time of sale for us to record your details.

Please call in for a chat about how these new rules affect you.