

Pentoguard For Late Maize Harvest

David Lewis

At the time of writing, maize crops are not progressing as fast as we would like. The crops, on the whole, are looking good but the growth stages have been delayed throughout the summer. Soils were not particularly warm in spring and the average temperatures in mid-summer have not helped.

We urge farmers to be patient and allow ripening to complete and improve starch levels before harvest. Early harvested crops tend to be acidic with lower starch levels and do not feed well.

At harvest we recommend the use of PENTOGUARD additive. This will be especially important if moulds and

smuts are developing on the plant leading to mycotoxin problems in the clamp. This could happen with a late harvest and ensuring a safe fermentation is critical for animal performance. Pentoguard is designed to help reduce the incidence of pathogens in such material. The inclusion of the patented organism, *Lactobacillus lactis* in Pentoguard this year has increased its effectiveness against clostridium as well as yeasts and moulds.

To discuss using Pentoguard on maize silage ring me on 07710 600848.

Contractors / Services

Grassland subsoiling, aerating, ploughing, reseeding & overseeding. Harrogate / Ripon area. Steven Brown 07920 884575.

Self-propelled forage harvesting. Round and quadrant baling and wrapping. Tractor and man hire 07759 342125.

Primrose Tyre Services, Bedale. Tel. 01677 450487 or 07977 732096.

Agricultural Electrician, J R Graham. Fault finding and repairs, breakdowns, new installations, lighting, security, 3-phase. Tel John on 07595 620935 or 01423 340319.

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. Fodder beet cleaner-loader with picking off table for hire. 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.

5t digger for hire, with or without operator. Andrew Donaldson 07753 637638.

Fencing, Forestry and Groundworks Contractor. WM Rural Contractors, Yorkshire. Contact Will McDermott 07791335602 for a competitive quote.

Welding tuition available in MMA mig & tig processes on pipe and plate. Call 01609 761697 email: fortressfabrications@outlook.com

For Sale & Wanted

1200 gal. open top slurry tanker, wide tyres, good condition £1300 + VAT. Masham 07736 734388.

3 wooden sheep racks on wheels – Grantley sawmills made. Very good condition. £100 each o.n.o. Harrogate area Tel 01423 506331

3 pedigree Shorthorn bulls. High health scheme. All been used & are easy calving. Good conformation & quiet. Ripon area 07585 332018.

Wanted Full / Part time farm worker 01765 635318

Quadrant baled horse haylage £25/bale collected. Northallerton area 01325 378228.

Well grown, registered Aberdeen Angus bull. 18 months old, by Abington Ramrod. Ready to go to work. P.Dawson 07706 410750

Charolais bulls. Well bred & ready for work. 16-18 months. Tel. Jenny Clayton 0113 2672921 or 07952 228632.

Angus bulls for sale or hire. Peter Turnbull 01347 868236 or 07836 370253.

Hay for sale. Good quality. Small bales and also large oblong. Also, large haylage bales. Reasonably priced. 01423 864253.

10 acres of standing maize crop. Ripon 07845 740114.

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OCTOBER 2015 ISSUE

Monthly offers

Hardware

10' wooden troughs £22.50 + VAT
9' galvanised sheep troughs £20 + VAT
Feed & fertility tugging buckets buy 10 and get one free

Animal health

Buy 4 Nettex Ram Crayons get a 5th FREE
Buy 4 Ritchey Ram Crayons get a 5th FREE
Buy a Nettex Ram Harness get a FREE crayon
Buy a Ritchey Ram Harness get a FREE crayon
Ram Raddle 1.5kg 20% off now £3.96 + VAT



Buy any Closamectin Pour On and get a FREE applicator

Rodilon Blocks 2kg now £16.66 + VAT

Country store

BOLD 2 in 1 washing powder – 105 wash – No need to add fabric softener!! Was £29.99 NOW ONLY £26.99 – SAVE 10%



HY Vetwrap – assorted colours – Were £1.95 NOW ONLY £1.00!!

HY Poultry – Was £4.50 NOW ONLY £3.83 – SAVE 15%



All Ex Masham While stocks last!

Please mention the newsletter when ordering.



Peter Harland

Jameson's customers Jim and Heather Marks of Gillyflatts Farm, in Bishopton, run a 120-head suckler herd of Limousin crosses, as well as a number of pedigree and commercial cattle, which they show around the country.

The herd is fed a diet based on homegrown barley and grass silage. For the last three years supplemented with a protein balancer and minerals. For the last three years Actisaf Sc47 live yeast has been included in the ration, and Jim believes it has made a positive difference.

"We feed Actisaf farm pack at a rate of 50-100g per head per day, with the higher rate going to the show cattle," explained Jim. "The main element of the diet is barley, so we feel the yeast helps with digestion and makes the rumen work better in general."

Since using Actisaf, Jim has noticed less loose muck and better animals

Although creosote treated timber is more expensive than standard pressure treatments, it is more cost effective in the long term with the life expectancy far exceeding standard treatments. It is advised to always use appropriate PPE.

We now stock a range of kiln dried creosoted fence posts.



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AROUND THE MARKETS

At Otley auction, P&SM Smith had the 1st & 2nd placed Dales mule gimmer lambs at £115 using youngstock blend. Joy & Lambert Coverdale had the 1st & 3rd placed continental shearlings at £136 top price and were awarded the JJ Blades memorial trophy. At Northallerton mart, The Bowes struck again with highest prices for heifers at £1478 and £1540. Top price medium bull came from D&S Harrison at £1161 fed on rolled barley & Intensive Cattle pro and top price heavy bull at £1393 came from GA Robson using Cattle pro 60. Top in the lambs was JF & PMC Milner at £88.50 on lamb blend.

Congratulations to Keith & Audrey of Keirey Livestock, Constable Burton for 1st & 2nd with their Beltex lambs at Leyburn using hogg blend.



Skipton mule sale

European Parliament Answers Hogan Complaint on fertiliser prices

Graham Jameson

Earlier this year Commissioner Hogan wrote to the Competition DG regarding the fertiliser price increase in the context of a reduction in oil and gas prices.

He asked for the Commission 'to explain what it was doing to obtain an explanation from the fertiliser companies regarding the increase in prices within the market' and if 'the Commission could say if it believed that there was reason to begin an investigation to investigate whether or not there are cartels operating in the fertiliser market'.

The Commission concluded that it was aware that fertiliser markets are concentrated, which could facilitate anti-competitive behaviour, and is therefore following the developments in these markets. So, if we hear any developments on this we'll let you know.

Masham Discussion Group Meetings

October 8

Richard Pennock – Myton Hall Farm – The UK Beef Industry – a global perspective.

November 12

David Thomlinson – Harrison & Hetherington – The Future of the livestock auction.

Held at the Masham Sports Association on the 2nd Thursday monthly at 7.30pm for 7.45pm.

Don't forget to put out our Dalesman Tri-mag buckets to prevent grass staggers.

(Right)

A nice start to the day at Kilnsey show with the rain holding off until home-time.



(Left)

A busy, sunny day at Pateley show – visitors from as far a field as Gisburn, Settle & Thirsk as well as the locals!



Negative energy balance

Dr Ruth Lawson

If cows are “not doing well” after calving it is likely that they have made a poor transition onto the milking cow diet and so begins the phase of negative energy balance (NEB). Signs are all too apparent in individual cows, poor rumen fill, variable muck, tail switching, mucky flanks and loss of both milk and condition.

NEB often results in ketosis and also acidosis. In ketotic cows, milk yield often drops; milk fat increases or remains stable, milk protein decreases. A disturbed liver function is reflected by the fact that in this case the conversion from ammonia (from protein breakdown), to urea is hampered; milk urea levels are hence an indirect indicator for NEB-ketosis (high urea) and acidosis (low urea) problems in the herd. In the case of rumen acidosis, the rumen papillae which are shorter and less functional in the dry period have not been able to adapt to the early lactation diet. In fact, SARA herd prevalence of 19-26% has been reported. Acidotic cows (rumen pH<5.6) often show a decreased milk fat content, a stable or increased milk protein content, and a ratio of <1.2. In general, NEB can be expected in cows with milk fat content >4.8% or <3.5%, and a milk protein <2.9%.

Next to milk production problems, further consequences of NEB are health and fertility. Ketosis leads to immune suppression (downregulating pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory responses) and then to an increased risk of mastitis, infectious claw lesions and other infections. With respect to reproductive problems you may notice a poor oocyte development, poor oestrus expression, poor pregnancy results, metritis and cystic ovarian disease. Too high rumen degradable protein levels have also been associated with early embryonic death.

Aside from the dry and transition diets, management should allow cows to adapt properly to the early lactation diet and risk factors should be eliminated such as overcrowding, social stress etc. In terms of diet, a glucogenic diet should be fed where energy is coming from starch (within safe limits) with additional n3 fatty acids coming from protected linseed for example. Finally, supply of minerals and vitamins is a must if there are deficiencies in forages or cows.

To discuss these issues in your cows please ring me on 01765 689666.

Getting Your Money's Worth

Sue Sutcliffe

Livestock farmers are being encouraged to take a look at their soil structure, after a study revealed fewer than half of grassland fields have good soil composition. A Defra-funded study of 300 grassland fields found just 40% had good soil structure. Compaction restricts the movement of air, water & nutrients down through the soil profile. This type of damage leads to poor root growth which stresses the plant and reduces its response to nitrogen. Applying fertilizer to compacted soils is a waste of money as the plant will not be able to utilize it fully. Compaction can also cause temporary waterlogging and wet soils stay colder for longer reducing the number of grazing days.

Signs of waterlogging include: –

- Standing water
- Reddish tinge to grass leaves indicating stress
- Rushes, marsh thistle & Yorkshire fog
- Scorch marks from urine where it couldn't drain away

Compaction is usually addressed as part of a re-seed. Also try to avoid rolling if stones and mole hills aren't an issue.

Making babies

Jake Lakin

Every red blooded beef farmer and steak enthusiast always suspected that vegetarianism diminished vitality – and now scientists have proven it! Sperm quality among vegans and vegetarians is lower than for omnivores – and so meat eaters are more likely to make babies. A study by a University in California has discovered that 33% sperm fertility compared with 58% for meat eaters. And to rub it in non-meat eaters had much lower sperm concentrations of 51million/ml compared with 70 million/ml. Researchers concluded that diet significantly affects sperm quality because vegetarians and vegans were associated with much lower sperm counts than omnivores.

USEFUL NUMBERS Country Store 01765 680215 • Nick Bowkett 07715 994178 (Product Sales) • David Lewis 07710 600848 (Dairy Specialist) • Jake Lakin (sales) 07740 409826 • Stuart Holmes 07894 595194 (Sales) • Graham Jameson 07802 253060 (Sales) • Jonathan Stansfield 07732 396078 (Grain Buyer / Fertiliser Sales) • Richard Harker 07732 396079 (Accounts) • Peter Harland 07803 116410 (Sales) • Ruth Lawson 07725 263050 (Nutritionist)