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 608848.

For Sale & Wanted

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

3 wooden sheep racks on wheels – Giantley 07925 894575.

3 tonne Digger hire. Ditching, lane repairs etc. Simon Rhodes Feed Services for on-farm rolling, grinding, mill & mix services. Tel. Nick 07716 467460 or 01765 640 867.

WANTED Full / Part time farm worker 01765 332018.

3 wooden sheep racks on wheels – Grantley 07736 620488.

9’ galvanised sheep troughs £20 + VAT

Harrowing / Ripon area. Steven Brown 07923 884575.

Self-propelled forage harvesting. Round and quad baling and wrapping. Tractor and man hire 07797 342125.

Primrose Tyre Services, Bedale. Tel. 01677 450487 or 01772 730206.

Agricultural Electrician, J R Graham. Fault finding and repairs, break downs, new installations, lighting, security & 3 phase. John on 07795 620395 or 01423 340319.

Fencing Contractors, A and S Corner, Easingwold. Call Andrew for a competitive quote: 01347 823645.

Fencing Contractors David Robinson. Leyburn 07762 317201.

Agri Feed branding, North Yorkshire. Tel Steve Johnson 07940 649911 or 01347 810980.

Cattle freeze-branding, North Yorkshire. Tel Steve Johnson 07940 064991 competitive quote: 01347 823645.

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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 shearings 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 £1374. Top price medium bull came from D&D 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 £385.00 on lamb blend.

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

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

November 12
David Thirroull – 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.

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 mucu, 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 <1.2. In general, NEB can be expected in cows with milk fat content >4.8% or <3.5%, and a milk protein <1.2.

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. It really, 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 utilise 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
- Heads down to grass leaves indicating stress
- Holes, marish triffe & 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 it stones and mole hills aren’t an issue.

USEFUL NUMBERS
Country Store 01765 682015 • 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)