



NEWSLETTER

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This year's silages

Jake Lakin - 07740 409826

Results from Frank Wright for silage analysis for the UK as a whole, indicate the following:-

- An average first cut ME of 10.7 MJ/kg DM, which will support M+6.4 litres of milk.
- The average dry matter was 31.1%, with samples ranging from 13.7 to 72%, showing more variation than the 2015 equivalent crop.
- The average crude protein of samples has fallen slightly from 2015 to 14.2%. The range was 8.7 to 22.3%.
- The NDF average is higher than 2015 at 50.4%, compared with 46.6% in 2015.
- Intake potential is similar to 2015 values.
- Early indications of second cut analysis demonstrate a reduced DM and lower ME, a higher NDF%, but lower lignin content. This indicates that more digestible fibre is available to the animal.



Ask us about:-

- **Ration formulation using Dietcheck**
- **Silage analysis**

Weaning strategies for sucklers

Stuart Holmes

- 07894 595194

Abrupt weaning of suckler calves from their mothers is a source of stress for both cow and calf. Often weaning stress is compounded by other husbandry practices occurring at the same time, for example, change of diet or housing. This stress compromises both live weight gain and health. It has been reported that weaning stress can

be reduced by implementing a two-step weaning approach.

Fence line weaning involves cows and calves being separated by a fence, for over four days, before total separation. This



allows the cows and calves to still see, hear and smell one another and where possible have nose-to-nose contact. A study in the USA showed that fence line weaning minimised losses in weight gain in the post-weaning period, with abruptly weaned calves failing to compensate for these early losses in weight gain up to ten weeks after the weaning period.

Ask us about:-

- **Calf blend**
- **Youngstock blend**
- **Calf weaner pellets**
- **Bespoke blend for youngstock**

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Managing magnesium

David Lewis

- 07710 600848

Magnesium is a key macro-nutrient in diets for cattle. It is essential for bone growth and maintenance, a functioning nervous system and also aids fibre digestion in the rumen. It is also strongly linked to milk fever prevention enabling the mobilisation and absorption of calcium.

Magnesium is predominantly stored in the bones and consequently it is not readily available to the cow. Therefore it is important to ensure a sufficient supply of daily magnesium for absorption in the rumen.

A number of factors affect the absorption of magnesium in the rumen. A large supply of rumen degradable protein, high levels of potassium and high rumen pH all decrease magnesium absorption. Stress or poor

weather conditions may also indirectly reduce magnesium absorption in animals by reducing intake.

Magnesium can be supplemented via a variety of methods including: compound feeds, mineral supplements, magnesium bullets, pasture dressing, magnesium in water, licks and boluses.



Ask us about: -

- **Dalesman Tri-mag buckets**
- **High mag GP minerals**



How to increase your lambing %

Liz Lunn - 07803 116410

Tupping represents the start of the sheep year. A small crop conceived at tupping limits production at lambing time and beyond.

There are lots of ways that you can try to maximise the lamb crop for 2017 tupping time is critical: -

1. Ewes need to be in improving BCS on the run up to tupping, not static. Recent research shows that the adverse effects on ovulation rate of poor nutrition 6 months prior to the breeding season can be offset by flushing just two weeks prior to tupping.
2. Embryo survival can be increased by including n3 fatty acids found in fish oil.
3. Cobalt is needed for egg growth and early foetal development. Also, ewes

supplemented with cobalt at tupping give birth to more active lambs.

4. Zinc is needed for hoof quality to keep sheep sound.
5. Tups need to be in good BCS too, feeding a 16% cake for 6-8 weeks will improve semen production.
6. Where selenium levels are low around tupping, supplementation will decrease barren ewe numbers and increase lambs born alive.
7. Avoid any kind of stress – it will kill embryos.
8. Avoid red clover; it results in oestrogens which cause infertility. Also, avoid brassicas as they prevent iodine uptake.

Ask us about: -

- **Feet & Fertility tupping buckets**
- **Prime stock pencils**



Do lame cows become thin or do thin cows become lame?

Dr Ruth Lawson
- 07725 263050

This was the question posed by Professor Jon Huxley from Nottingham University in his AHBD funded dairy research.

Lameness is the result of a crush injury in the cow's foot – cells are killed by being crushed, resulting in a hole in the sole. So what affects this? Both the integrity of the suspensory apparatus and the fat pad can affect this crush injury. The softening of the reproductive tract around the time of calving also results in a slackening of the suspensory apparatus. The digital cushion is the fat pad and is a shock absorber. The digital cushion is not fully formed until the second lactation, i.e. not fully formed in the heifer lactation. As cows lose body condition in early lactation, they mobilise fat from the fat pad. The first life time lameness event is important because irreversible damage is done. So it's critical to prevent body condition loss in early lactation and at

Jamesons we always formulate diets for zero body condition loss.

So, do lame cows become thin or do thin cows become lame? Studies at Nottingham University have shown that before cows were treated for lameness, they were thinner than the average. Another study found that if a cow is not lame today, but thin at calving, she is highly likely to be lame in 2 weeks time and stay lame. The same applies if she was OK at calving, but lost body condition after calving.

In terms of treatment, cows receiving trim, block and anti-inflammatory drugs did better than the individual treatments alone. Treating cows as soon as they appear lame will halve the duration of the lameness incidence. If you leave a lame cow untreated, all treatments are the same, i.e. not very effective.

Ask us about: -

- Revolution dairy cake
- Bespoke dairy blends



Congratulations to Jameson's customer, Graham Pickering for achieving a record price for a store beast at Ruswarp Market's Annual Sale of Suckled calves. A whopping £2900 was paid for the outstanding 7 month old British Blue heifer shown with Graham in the photo. This heifer was fed on Jameson's calf blend. Graham says, "You have to feed quality to get quality".

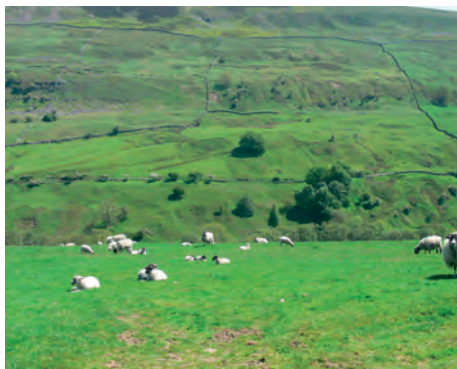
Ask us about: -

- Calf blend
- Youngstock blend
- Calf weaner pellets
- Bespoke blend for youngstock

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The timing of the liming

Sue Sutcliffe

- 01765 689666

Lime can be applied at any time of the year, but the best result will come from application and incorporation during working a seed-bed. Applications on top of grass swards are best made in autumn and early spring.

For grassland, lime can be applied at reseeding with the soil treated as if it were an arable crop. It is important to leave enough time for the lime to work and for the soil to adjust to the correct pH before drilling seed. This can take several weeks depending on the quality of the lime used.

Where lime is applied to grassland without ploughing, apply lime in autumn or at the latest in early spring. Larger application rates (5t/ha) should be applied in the autumn where there is no ploughing. Where possible split large applications between autumn and spring.

Ask us about: -

• **Calcioprill lime**



Sulphur - how much is too much?

Dr Ruth Lawson

- 07725 263050

Grass growth can often be stimulated by the inclusion of some sulphur as part of a fertiliser application. Data shows that a grass growth response is likely when forage sulphur concentrations are below 0.2%. However, sulphur is one of those elements where balance is everything. Although the grass crop increases its

growth rate in response to sulphur fertiliser, the sulphur concentration may exceed the toxic threshold for cattle and sheep with heavy sulphur applications.

Where sulphur level gets to 0.3%, the sulphur will antagonise copper and selenium, thus reducing supply of these minerals for the animal. This is a problem which can be rectified if necessary using correct mineral supplementation, but there will be a cost attached.

At sulphur levels above 0.4%, there is a decrease in intake and rumen motility. At higher levels, complete anorexia, ruminal stasis, impaction, and a foul odour of hydrogen sulphide on the breath of sheep are observed. For dairy cows, high sulphur levels can lead to a reduction in acetic acid production in the rumen, which can reduce milk fat production.

Ask us about forage mineral analysis to ensure correct sulphur balance.

