

ANIMAL FEEDS • FERTILISERS • SEEDS • COUNTRY STORE

Focused on Farming



SEPTEMBER 2012 ISSUE

The price of false economy

PETER HARLAND

Currently it is looking like it will be an expensive winter. So far, a great volume of forage has been harvested, although the quality is highly variable, leaning towards the poor side. Cereal prices are likely to remain more than one would wish to pay, the same might be said for protein.

The knee jerk reaction to this is to rein in and cut back, and understandably so. But sacrificing productivity can reduce profit and inflame the issue. Whilst the price of feed and fuel are out of our hands, it is important to focus on things within our control on the farm. Livestock productivity should be our main focus. Productivity and animal health go hand in hand and is something Jamesons have always felt is at the heart of a thriving livestock business.

A major influence of animal health is diet. Good feed, simple in theory, complicated in reality.

Feeding low energy cakes may save a few quid, but cows in early lactation will suffer hefty body condition losses and struggle to get in calf, particularly as silages are low in ME this year. Quality of finishing rations for both cattle and sheep can dictate days to market, so diets that are too low in energy and poor in starch content are not efficient. The good news is we're here to help, whether you just want to run through your planned diet with us, conduct a mineral analysis, or you're trying to evaluate your best options, just speak to your rep or call the office and we will do our best to help out. As they say "There's a ration for every price, but the cheapest can be the dearest".

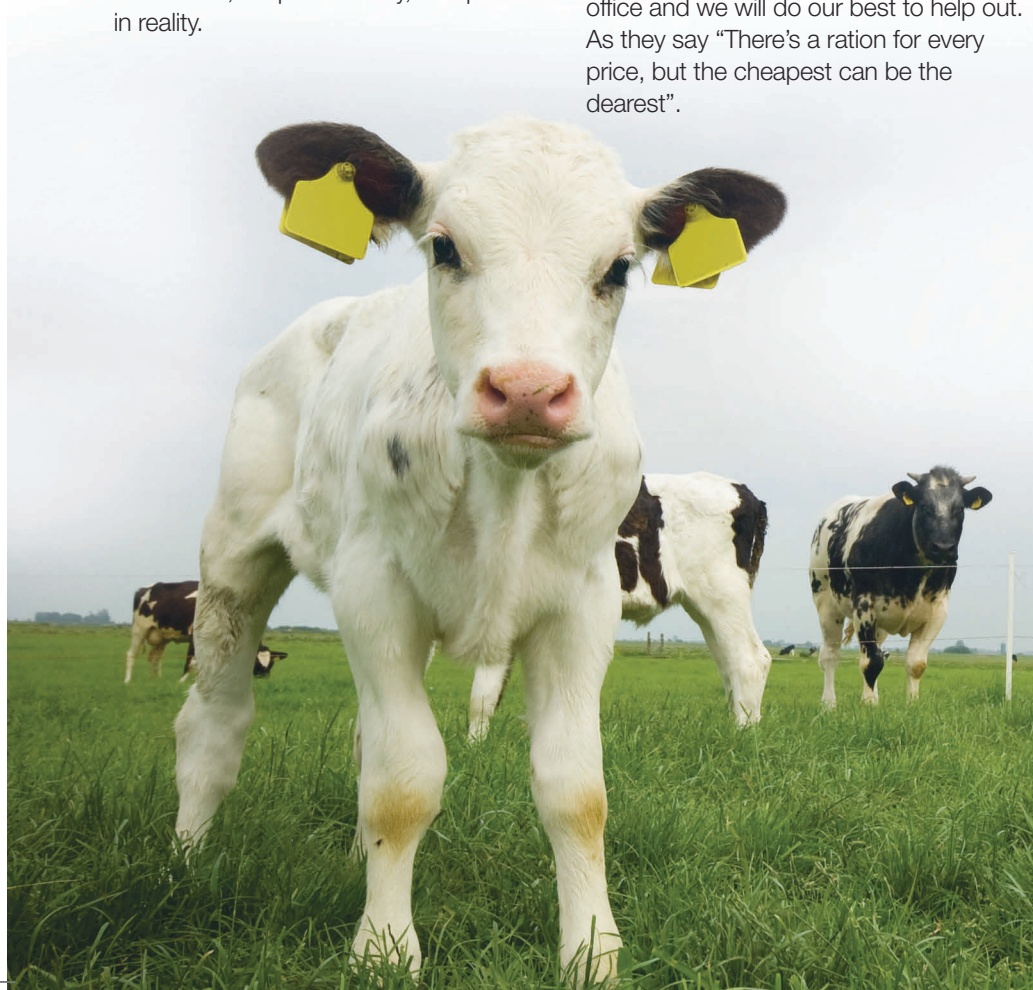
Silage: A Question of Balance

DAVID LEWIS

Most silage has now been made for this year with mixed results. Silage made during the dry period in late May was generally good but some of it has already been fed. Going into June and July, silages were more variable. Some were wet, some were stemmy and some were both wet and stemmy.

Whether it is perfect or a stinking pile, it is there in the clamp and has to be fed. Average silage results are irrelevant. What is important is what is in your clamps. So, plans must be set in motion to turn that silage in to animal performance. We offer to test the silage and advise on which is the best feed to match with that silage to maximise the value of that silage and get the best possible results.

Silages which are dry and stemmy usually require a good level of starch to increase the energy level in the diet whereas wetter silage require low starch levels to reduce acidity and a digestible fibre source such as beet pulp would be better to balance the ration. Protein levels need balancing up and fibre, minerals and vitamins need assessing. For good advice on the best options with your silage contact your rep or Ruth or David in the office for a ration plan for your farm.



Monthly Offer

Round Bale Cradles £140
Ex Masham with this newsletter



How much silage?

DAVID LEWIS

Many of you are telling us that your silage clamps are full! But a lot of that silage was clamped in less than ideal conditions because of the wet weather. Wet silage always goes back quickly in the clamp when fed so it is important to be sure there is sufficient now rather than find out to the contrary next March.

The following table is useful to calculate how many tonnes of forage are in store. When this is matched to the animal numbers we can calculate if there are sufficient supplies. Contact us to help calculate stocks for your individual situation.

Also, if you're having to feed silage to stock at present, this will further eat into stocks. Low quality, low dry

matter silages will be a challenge when formulating winter rations.

If you think you're going to be short of forage this winter its worth thinking about sowing some forage brassicas to provide some late season grazing. Try to make the best possible use of fertilizers and slurry to maximize third cut.



DM% \ HEIGHT	2m	3m	4m
15	833	965	1120
20	725	840	972
25	660	765	880
30	617	714	826
35	586	678	768

Breathe easy

GRAHAM JAMESON



Young calves are particularly prone to respiratory disease, especially between 4 and 6 weeks of age. They look generally miserable with a loss

of appetite, coughing, runny nose and heavy breathing. High humidity,

poor ventilation, over-crowding, mixing of animals and transportation can increase stress and lower natural resistance to disease making it more likely that cattle will succumb to respiratory disease. Pulmosure effectively supports cattle exposed to respiratory challenge through a natural antibacterial action. It increases the animal's resistance

Pulmosure

to disease as it contains good levels of vitamin E and selenium which are needed for an effective immune response. Overall stress is reduced as it opens up the airways so the calf can breathe more easily. It can be top-dressed or incorporated into the feed and is available at Jamesons.

One for the boys!

DR RUTH LAWSON

Nutritional deficiencies at tugging will have knock-on effects at lambing. If you don't get the embryos to start with, you can't get the lambs in spring.

So, with this in mind, tups need flushing too! The target body condition score for tups at the start of tugging is 3.5; and 3.5 - 4.0 for ram lambs in their first season. Sperm production is highly responsive to nutrition. It takes 7 weeks to produce sperm, so there needs to be an improvement in the tup's nutrition for at least 7 weeks pre-tugging to increase sperm numbers.

For at least 2 months before tugging, rams will need good quality grass and

either a small amount of concentrate or pre-tugging buckets. Continuing feeding tups during the mating period helps to maintain performance throughout tugging time. Training tups to come to a bucket allows raddle changes without having to gather up the flock.

Feeding tups on a high plane of nutrition right from birth can have an effect in increasing testicular mass at maturity relative to those on medium nutrition.

Trace minerals, such as selenium and zinc are also needed to improve sperm quality. Selenium infertility is more prevalent in some areas and in some



seasons. Some land will also be deficient in zinc. Tups have a high requirement for both zinc and selenium for sperm production over a relatively short breeding season. Supplementing with zinc and selenium results in increased motility and live sperm in tups.

USEFUL NUMBERS Nick Bowkett 07715 994178 (Product Sales) • David Lewis 07710 600848 (Dairy Specialist) • Jonathan Stansfield 07732 396078 (Grain Buyer / Fertiliser Sales) • Richard Harker 07732 396079 (Accounts) • Nigel R

Soil testing

DAVID LEWIS

With fertilizer prices remaining high it is important to check the soil reserves for P, K, and pH. It is a win-win situation as the cost of testing is very small relative to the returns.

If the soil reserves are high then big savings can be made in reducing fertilizer inputs. If the reserves are low then the crop will not grow well without fertilizer so good returns can be had from applying compound fertilizer or lime.

REMEMBER; We can advise on the value of slurry and FYM applications.

Congratulations

to long time Jamesons customer Jane Walker of Kirby Sigston. Jane has been collecting first prizes at the shows this summer with her Hereford show cattle. Showing cattle is a family affair, with daughter Nicola shown in the photo showing stock bull Hallwood Hank. Jane is a real Hereford enthusiast and often has stock to sell.



Pippa Middleton!

DR RUTH LAWSON

There got your attention! This article is nothing to do with the lady with the most celebrated derriere. But you're reading it now, so you may as well carry on.

Mineral nutrition isn't always the most exciting of subjects so I had to think of something to grab your attention. Often forages can be short of certain minerals and these can limit production in terms of health, fertility, growth rate or milk production. For example, many pastures are deficient in zinc and selenium. Zinc is needed for hoof and skin quality, sperm production in males and can also have effects on growth rate. Selenium deficiency shows up as white muscle disease in lambs, retained placentas in cattle and infertility in both males and females.

Both soil type and fertilizer can influence forage mineral status. Some minerals can be "locked-up" by others.

For example high levels of sulphur can make the selenium in the forage not available to the animal. Also, copper deficiency is created by high levels of molybdenum and sulphur tying up this mineral so the animal can't make use of it. So, where this occurs a source of protected mineral is advisable, but care must be taken not to over-do it as both of these are toxic in excess.

If you know the mineral make-up on your farm, you can supplement accordingly, selecting minerals that target your deficiency problems without incurring additional expense of ones you don't need or could lead to toxicity in your livestock.



Jamesons offer a forage mineral analysis and interpretation service.

Ask Nigel

(Interview with Jamesons seed specialist Nigel Rees)

Q What can I sow now to get an early spring Bite?

It may be too late for stubble turnips but there are other sowing options.

- **Italian Ryegrass** can be sown in September on its own or as the major constitute of our No.1 grass seed mixture.
- **Forage Rye** gives 3 weeks earlier grazing and is more winter hardy than Italian ryegrass.

Q What are the advantages of these late sown catch crops?

Italian Ryegrass can be grazed by stock before ploughing up for spring cereals, or left in situ to provide a silage ley as a one year break.

Forage Rye grows at low temperatures hence provides early grazing. For cattle, forage rye can fill the gap between silage and grazing. For sheep it provides a very palatable winter keep.

Q What are the sowing rates?

We can supply **Italian Ryegrass** in 25 kg bags. Sowing rate is normally 14kg/acre. Alternatively use Jamesons' grass seed mixture No.1 which contains Italian Ryegrass and Westerwolds (Italian ryegrass sub-species).

Forage Rye is usually direct drilled into stubble at 65/70kg per acre or sown at 50kgs with 6kgs of Italian Ryegrass per acre.

Q What's the best way to graze it?

Avoid Italian Ryegrass and Forage Rye entering the winter months too proud as it becomes stemmy and loses its feed value, hence it may require light grazing in December. These crops are best strip grazed by sheep and dairy cows when 6" high in late February.

As an example, an acre of Forage Rye should provide 2 weeks grazing for 10 cows or 20 ewes with lambs at foot.

GRAND SHEEP FAIR SALE

Saturday 29th September 2012, 8am - 4pm

Sunday 30th September 2012, 10am - 4pm

Jamesons' Country Store is the perfect place to shop for all your country needs. We stock a wide range of country clothing from all the leading brands.

Our well stocked shop contains everything you require for pets, wild birds and farm livestock. The horse owner will find all they require from feed to horse wormer and from tack to riding gear all backed up with knowledgeable advice from qualified staff.

Great weekend offers on:

- Shooting, Riding and Country Clothing
- Riding Equipment Essentials
- Pet and Wild Bird Feeds
- Animal Health and Nutrition Products
- DIY, Household and Gardening
- Country Gifts, Cards and Toys

Spend £50
or more
and receive
10% off
with this flier*



Foxholme Lane Mill, Masham,
North Yorkshire HG4 4EL

Call: 01765 680215



*Only valid on the 29th and 30th September 2012.

Dear Dr Ruth...

Dear Dr Ruth

I'm one of the youngsters, Mook 210 said we should write to you. It seems we've been lucky to get through calthood as Mook533 says some calves are born dead and some die in the first month of their life.

Us kids are worried as Mook210 says 6% of young mooks don't reach service (whatever that is). To be honest, it's a minefield, apparently you can even calve OK and then get kicked out of the herd. What can we do?

Dear YoungMook,

I share your concerns, there's lots of work to do here. As you're probably realizing, heifer weight rather than age determines when puberty happens. So big is best, as long as you don't get too fat. Farms that feed their calves really well, get heifers that are much heavier at weaning and are more well-endowed in the boob department.

Also, I'll have a word with His Lordship as he needs to carry on feeding you for 6 weeks after service to make sure embryos are implanted after you've been served. But when you're expecting you shouldn't eat too much as you might have problems calving and also won't do so well when you join the grown-ups. So what we need is big, well-endowed youngsters that aren't fat! Hope this helps. Yours Dr Ruth

Contractors / Services

Agricultural Electrician, J R Graham. Fault finding and repairs, breakdowns, new installations, lighting, security, 3-phase. Tel John on 07595 620935 or 01423 323436.

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.

Sheep Shearing experienced tidy shearers at competitive rates. Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cumbria Areas. R. Wilson 077306 54448 or 01423 565812.

For Sale & Wanted

FOR SALE Lambing Difficulties? Not when you use a Berrichon Ram. Easy Lambing, quick suckling, fast finishing, attractive gimmers. Good selection of rams, reasonable price. 20 year established flock. M.D.CCC. Mr Charlton 01609 881234.

FOR SALE 31ft straw trailer, double axle, newly built 07753 637638.

FOR SALE Mueller 8,000ltr Milk tank – single phase Cotswold 90 Gal. Stainless Steel water heater – single phase. 70 Acres of Maize as a standing crop available in various field sizes Contact Jonathan Robertshaw: 01765 658316/07745 808489.

FOR SALE Portasol cordless & refillable dehorner Used £50. 32 ft. 6 inches corn auger £250. Akron 4 inch U-trough auger 5 @ 1m; 6 @ 2m sections £450. Very good condition, including motor and starter. Tel. 01677 422169.

FOR SALE 25 Concrete Portable Cubicles. Phone M & M Ryder 07535 780747

FOR SALE Small wooden 3t tipping trailer. Ideal for horse yards 07753772470

FOR SALE KRM 3metre box drill vgc. Stored inside, little use. 07753772470

WANTED Hay wanted. Phone 07762 549315.

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