

Calving Season 2019

As calving commences our Ruminant Support Team will get lots of phonecalls about problems on farms. Two of the most common queries relate to Retained Cleanings and Milk Fever. If you have an incidence of 5% or greater of either of these problems please do not suffer in silence, talk to your Brett Sales Rep immediately and we will try and work through the possible causes and find a solution. A high incidence of retained cleanings can be indicative of sub-clinical milk fever and often these two problems are linked. Reviva is an oral drink that is given to cows after calving and we recommend it to help alleviate such problems until the root cause is identified.



How much to feed and what to feed?

Concentrate feeding levels should not be set in stone but reactive to increasing herd demand, weather and your overall forage budget. Table 1 outlines recommended feed levels depending on forage available and milk yield. Do

not over estimate grass dry matter intakes, freshly calved cows need to transition to grass slowly and silage should still make up some of the diet in order to achieve good dry matter intakes.

Table 1 Recommended concentrate supplementation depending on forage type and supply

Forage Available	What Dairy Cube to feed	Milk Yield		
		22 Litres	26 Litres	30 Litres
Indoors fulltime on 70% DMD Silage	Milkwell 18% Milk Max 18%	6.5 Kgs	7.5 Kgs	8.5 Kgs
		7.5 Kgs	8.5 Kgs	9.5 Kgs
Indoors fulltime on 65% DMD Silage	Milkwell 18% Milk Max 18%	5.5 Kgs	6.5 Kgs	7.5 Kgs
Grass by day (6 kg DM) Adlib 70 % DMD silage by night	Milkwell 18% Milk Max 18% PIP Spring Dairy 16% Ultra Dairy 16	6.5 Kgs	7.5 Kgs	8.5 Kgs

This table gives an approximate guideline, for detailed recommendations contact your local Ruminant Support Specialist



PIP Spring Dairy 16%

Flexibility of feed in terms of feeding levels and protein is the key to managing freshly calved cows on silage and grass diets. Brett's PIP Spring Dairy is specifically formulated to complement spring grass while giving the flexibility in feeding rates of 3.5-8 kgs depending on grass availability, grazing conditions and silage quality. Our unique Performance

Improvement Pack (PIP) is also included in the dairy cubes and this provides essential minerals and additives for boosting the immunity of the cow in early lactation. This dairy cube is the perfect transition feed between our flagship Milkwell 18% and Maxi Breeder 14%.

Calf Feeding

The most important shed on the farm is without doubt the calf shed. Calf rearing is a full time job in itself, but some of these tips will help you get through the longer days.

Colostrum 1, 2, 3 is a brilliant management tip for rearing healthy calves. The first milk fed to the calf within two hours of birth at a minimum 3 litres per calf. This helps improve calf immunity which will reduce the number of sick calves, saving you time during the busy days.

Build the calf up to at least 6 litres of whole milk or 750g of milk replacer mixed with 5.25 litres of warm water split over two feeds. Milk will not supply enough water to calves so make sure there is a fresh supply of clean water available at all times to reduce dehydration and bloating and scour issues.

Introduce **Bretts Ultra Calf Cubes 18%** early to ensure calves are eating more the 1 kg of concentrate at the point of weaning. Ultra Calf can be fed from birth to turnout, so you only need one bag of concentrate in the calf house, saving you time, labour and unnecessary trips to your feed merchant. If scour

and coughing become an issue Ultra Calf can be manufactured to include PulmoCX, a natural feed additive that can help reduce the incidence of

coccidiosis and respiratory infections. Ask your Bretts Sales Representative for more information.

PIP SPRING DAIRY CUBES
from
Brett Brothers Limited

PIP Spring Dairy Cubes are specifically formulated for spring calving dairy cows during the transition period from indoor feeding to grazing.

This 16% protein dairy feed is the perfect complement to spring grass. It offers flexible feeding levels and provides the full requirement of protected minerals.

Contains PIP
Brett's unique
Performance
Improvement
Pack

Contact your Local Sales Representative or Tel: 056 7755300
Brett Brothers Limited, Callan, Co Kilkenny.
Web: www.brettbrothers.ie

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