



Harvest 2019

We are just days away from the winter barley harvest commencing. Our agronomy team are reporting that crops of winter barley and wheat look very promising in terms of yield and quality. Spring sown crops are more variable depending on sowing date, mainly due to the cold weather in late spring but there is still plenty of time for these crops to turn around. We wish all of our cereal growers a good harvest and, most importantly, a safe harvest. Summer is a high-risk time on all farms and with additional machinery in use, please take necessary precautions to minimise the risk of farm accidents.



Harvest & Silage Photo Competition for 2020 Calendar

This summer, we would love you to submit photos as we will be running a competition for the best 'silage' and 'harvest' photos to be chosen for inclusion in our 2020 Calendar. Pictures should be in landscape format and must be a minimum of 2 megabytes in size. Please email your entry to photos@brettbrothers.ie and include the name, address and phone number of the photographer and where the photo was taken. The two winners will receive a €50 One4All voucher.

Beef Cattle at Grass - Should I Feed Concentrates?

The answer depends on how much grass is available, what grass quality is like, what is the target finishing date, the required carcass specification and, of course, what the beef price is likely to do over the next few months. The target pre-grazing covers should be 1,200 - 1,500kg DM/Ha. Take steps to maintain grass quality by topping and taking out surplus paddocks as silage.

In early summer if grass is plentiful and grass quality is good, feeding supplements may not be economical. However, from mid-summer, grass quality often begins to deteriorate and our Grass Watch results in late June show that the fibre (stem) is increasing while energy levels from sugars are dropping.

Studies at Teagasc Grange have shown that with adequate grass allowances in late summer and autumn, while feeding approximately 0.50 - 0.75kg of concentrate per 100kg live weight will result in up to 110g of carcass growth per kg of concentrates fed. In practice, feeding this moderate level of concentrates is likely to result in carcass growth responses at the upper end of this range. For example, a 550kg steer supplemented with 4.0kg of feed will gain approximately 0.44kg of carcass per day.

For grazed grass, dietary energy rather than protein is the limiting factor therefore, low protein, high energy supplements are ideal. *Bretts Beef Grass Finisher Cubes* are 12% protein, high in energy from barley, maize and soya hulls and are ideal for supplementing heifers and steers at grass.



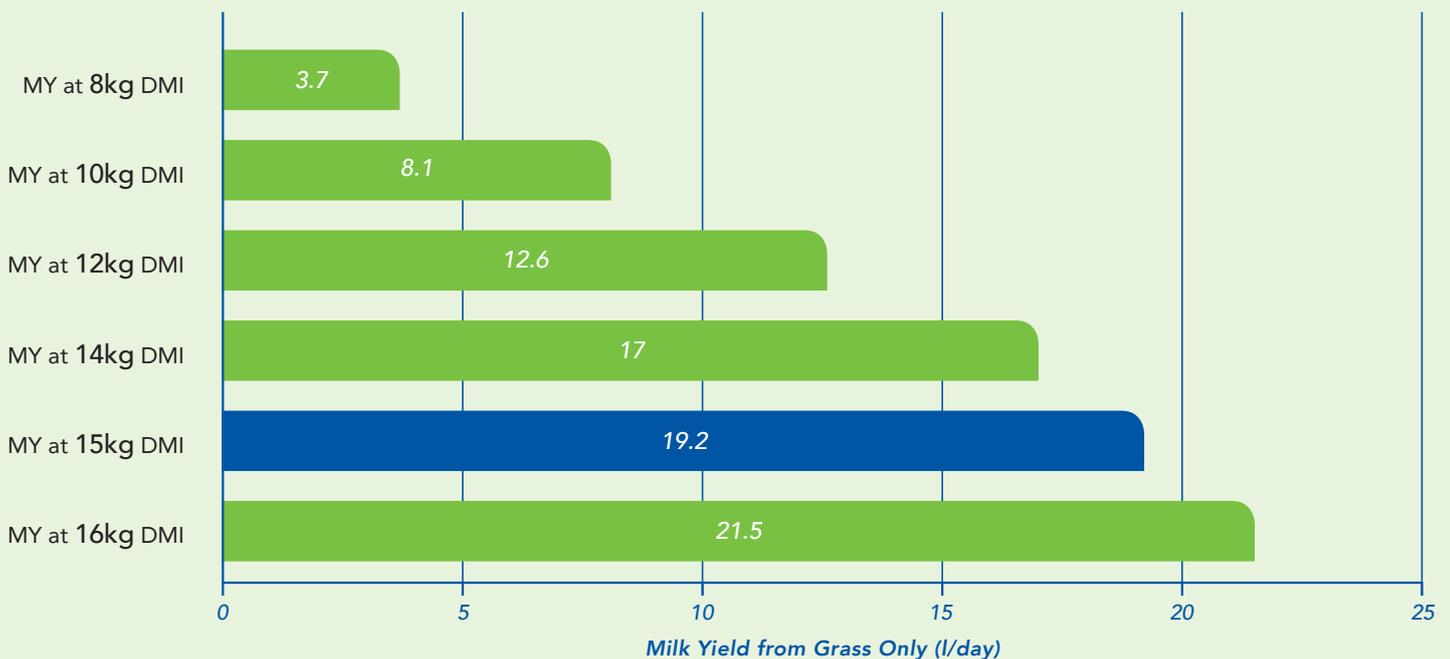


Grass Watch - Quality Matters

The challenge for the coming month for all livestock farmers is to maintain grass quality, as it is variable at present. Average grass quality results reported in Grass Watch at the end of June indicate 15kg DM of grass is supporting 19.2 litres of milk while the supplementation of 3.3kg of concentrates will yield 26 litres. However, the range in grass quality at farm level is variable and some farms see 15kg DM of grass supporting as little as 16 litres while others are getting 22 litres. Our advice is to monitor the bulk tank and milk constituents.



Predicted Milk Yield from Grass Only: Based on Average Grass Energy



Our mailing list is growing for our Grass Watch Reports. If you wish to receive regular updates, please email: grasswatch@brettbrothers.ie

Brett Brothers Ltd.,
Callan, Co. Kilkenny
Tel: 056 7755300

Brett Brothers Ltd.,
Windgap, Co. Kilkenny
Tel: 051 648204

Brett Brothers Ltd.,
Ardfinnan, Co. Tipperary
Tel: 052 7466208

Brett Brothers Ltd.,
Portlaw, Co. Waterford
Tel: 051 387396