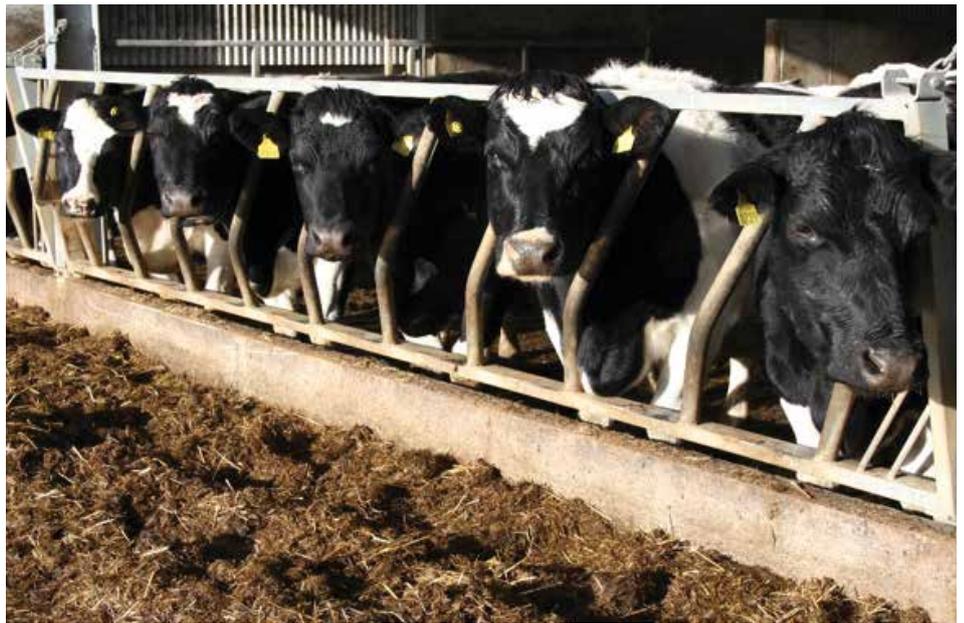


## Winter Feed Management

The Brett Brothers 2018 Dry Cow and Weanling Winter Feed Forums were held in four locations around the country in November. The forums were very well supported with over 300 people attending across the four locations. Topics discussed at the forums included; dry cow nutrition management for dairy and suckler cows, achieving targets for weanlings and yearlings with limited silage, and practical solutions to feed budgeting. One of the key take home messages from the forums was that even though the fantastic grazing conditions experienced in later autumn have certainly 'shortened' the winter and reduced the demand for silage, this is not the year to become complacent. Managing limited silage stocks is the most important job on every livestock farm this winter. Therefore, if you have not completed a silage budget yet, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. Our



Sales Representatives, supported by our Ruminant Support Specialists, Michael Foley and David Lawrence

are available to offer technical advice and support to all livestock clients.

## Feeding Straw and Meals

**Dry Cows** - Body condition score (BCS) at calving affects milk yield and fertility in the subsequent lactation. The target condition score for dairy cows at calving is 3.25 so diets need to be balanced in order to ensure

cows are not too thin or over fat at calving. If silage is 25% DM, a cow would normally eat 42-45 kgs of silage per day to meet her requirements. This year most dairy farmers will restrict silage usage and offer

alternative feeds. The table below outlines options for restricted silage diets. Please discuss these options with your Bretts' Sales Representative.

**Example Diet: Dry Cows with restricted silage:**

Dry Cow 575 kgs (10.5 kgs dry matter/day)	A Kgs /Cow/Day	B Kgs /Cow/Day	C Kgs /Cow/Day
Grass Silage 67% DMD at 25% DM	35	25	27
Straw	0	2	2.5
Bretts Fodder Stretch 16	2.0	3.0	0
Bretts Dry Cow Cube	0	0	2
PIP Dry Cow Minerals	0.12	0.12	0

## What is Fodder Stretcher Ration?

This ration is carefully formulated by our nutritionists as a partial replacement for forage. It is a blend of non-cereal ingredients that are high in fibre and nutritionally, the ration is similar to a 67% DMD silage. This ration contains no added minerals and it is safe to feed to dry cows, store cattle and weanlings over 6 months of age. This feed can be safely fed up to 5 kgs for dry cows. Please seek advice from your Sales Rep.

Feeding 3 kgs to 100 dry cows for 4 weeks will save approximately 32 tonnes of silage @ 25% DM. Priced at €235 per ton for January, this ration is available to order in consignments as small as 3 tonnes. It has low molasses and is suitable for a bin.

## Supreme PIP Dry Cow Cube – Stretch silage with minerals included

If you are tight on feeding space for dry cows and finding it difficult to feed Fodder Stretcher at the barrier, we have the perfect solution. **Bretts' Supreme PIP Dry Cow Cube** is a feed that can be fed through the parlour at a rate of 2-3 kgs/day and it can also be fed on top of silage or through a diet feeder. This cube includes all of the essential minerals required in later pregnancy such as phosphorus, magnesium, copper, selenium and it also includes our very own **Bretts' PIP Dry Cow Minerals**. No additional minerals are required.

### Winners from Feed Forum draw

PIP Dry Cow minerals - John Hynes, Cahir  
4L Forefront- Simon Cantwell, Portlaoise  
4L Doxstar Pro - Paul Farrell, Gowran  
2 pack Pasture Pack – James Lacey, Carrick-on-Suir  
1 Bucket Reviva - Philip Thornton, Dualla  
1 Bucket Reviva - Donnacha Hassett, Mooncoin

## Happy New Year

Prepare for the New Year with our 2019 Brett Brothers Calendar. To receive a copy, please contact your local Sales Representative.

A huge thank you to all of our loyal clients for your continued support. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year.



*Happy New Year!*

### PRODUCT FOCUS

## Reviva



**Reviva** is a powder that is mixed in lukewarm water to provide a post calving supplement to dairy cows. The drink is high in rapidly available energy, vitamins, minerals and calcium. The product is particularly useful for herds suffering with both clinical and sub-clinical milk fever which often present as retained afterbirths. Many of our clients now use this as a tool to prevent metabolic disease in cows that are deemed as a high risk for developing milk fever, ketosis and displaced abomasums. Examples are cows that have a history of milk fever, cows that calved twins or cows following a difficult calving. It is like 'Lucozade Sport' for cows! It costs €8 per cow but in the context of veterinary costs this is a very small price to pay.

Reminder – to keep updated on our news Find us on Facebook

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