



## HARVEST UPDATE

Weather conditions for harvesting in August have been challenging, but growers have taken every opportunity and are now nearing the end of Harvest 2019. Grain quality is reported to be

very good with low moisture levels and our grain is safely in storage, ready for use in our animal feed for the coming winter.

## FERTILITY RESULTS

Dairy and suckler farmers are scanning cows and heifers to identify how successful their breeding season was. Results are extremely variable; some are excellent, while others are more disappointing. The empty rate

always becomes a focus at this time of the year, as this will contribute to culling decisions and ultimately the requirement of in-calf heifers. However, the breeding season should not be judged solely on the empty rate.

Outlined in the table below is a list of breeding targets. For further assistance in reviewing your results please contact your Bretts Ruminant Support Specialist, David Lawrence or Michael Foley.

Parameter	Definition	Range	Target	Influences
Calving Interval	Number of days between a cow calving this season and next season	355 - 430 days	360 - 375 days	Voluntary waiting period and 21-day submission rate
Calving to First Service Interval	Number of days between a cow calving and her first service	40 - 80 days	50 - 60 days	
21-day Submission Rate	Percentage of eligible cows* served in the first three weeks of breeding	60 - 95%	80 - 90%	Compaction of calving dates, heat detection
Calving to Conception Interval	The average number of days it takes to get an eligible cow* pregnant after she calves	80 - 160 days	85 - 95 days	Calving to first service interval and dietary energy balance in early lactation
Conception to First Service	The number of cows pregnant after their first service + total number of cows served x 100	35 - 75%	55 - 60%	Calving to first service interval, nutrition, health, management factors
6-week In Calf Rate	Percentage of eligible cows* that are in calf, six weeks after the start of breeding	70 - 85%	75%+	Dietary energy balance, submission rate, genetics
12-week Pregnancy Rate	The percentage of eligible cows* verified in calf after a 12-week breeding period	75 - 97%	85 - 95%	Herd average yield, nutrition, breeding management
Empty Rate	The percentage of eligible cows* not in calf after the breeding period (may be greater or less than 12 weeks)	3 - 22%	5 - 12%	21-day submission rate, energy balance, mineral nutrition, observations

\* An eligible cow is an animal that is eligible and is planned for insemination, this includes heifers.

## PRODUCT FOCUS

# BEEF GRASS FINISHER CUBES

**Our Beef Grass Finisher cubes are a competitively priced feed that is carefully formulated for feeding to finishing heifers and steers at grass. They are high in energy with a very high inclusion of cereals and soya hulls. With protein at 12% this is the ideal feed to complement high protein autumn grass. Ask your Bretts Sales Representative for further information.**



## FEEDING OF BEEF CATTLE

Beef farmers are going through a challenging time at present and every farmer has to evaluate their own system. Despite the uncertainty, there are farmers starting to house beef animals for intensive feeding, but with the excellent grazing conditions and grass supply it may make more sense to start to feed outdoors, especially forward heifers and steers.

Beef animals intended for intensive feeding will have a transitional feeding period of approximately 3 weeks; the level of concentrates fed will increase gradually, while the amount of silage or forage is reduced. This is a challenging period with the potential risk of acidosis but with excellent management and the correct selection of feed, cattle will settle into high feeding rates very quickly.



## WEDDING BELLS

Huge congratulations to our Sales Representative Seamus Whitty and his lovely bride Philippa Mulligan who celebrated their wedding in August. We wish them both well for the future.

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