

COVID 19

We hope that you and your family are safe and well during this unprecedented time. Here at Brett Brothers, we would like to reassure you that we have adopted the recommendations from the HSE and have implemented many measures within our mill, offices, branches and at farm level, to ensure the safety of our employees and customers. We assure you that supplies of animal feed, fertiliser, seed and sprays will continue, however we ask for your co-operation at this time to keep everyone in the chain safe. Please discuss payment options with our office or your Sales Representative.



All our reps are available by **phone** or **text** to take orders and provide advice



Please **place your orders early** to allow us to plan delivery routes. Please **avoid unnecessary contact** with our drivers



Our stores remain **open** but please **call ahead** with your order and **follow procedures** outlined on-site



Where possible please make payments by **card**, **online transfer** or **send cheques in the post**

Bank Details for Electronic Payment:
BIC: BOFIE2D
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SPRING GRAZING 2020

We have seen two distinct types of spring rotations this year; those that have grazed less than 10% of ground during February and those that achieved 20-40% grazed in February. The farms with high grass covers presently are those on heavier ground with less early spring grazing. Farms that have had very good utilisation of grass so far are struggling to find adequate pre-grazing covers >900kg dry matter (DM)/ha due to previous poor weather conditions. As a result, farms with good early grazing are still utilising silage in the diet to manage grass supply, whereas those that couldn't get out early are trying to maximise grass intake to cover more ground. When grazed grass is replaced by grass silage, every 5-6kg DM of grass silage in the diet is likely to reduce the overall energy intake by 0.95 UFL, which should be balanced with an additional 1kg of concentrate.

Utilisation of grass has improved with better underfoot conditions, and as a result cows are achieving estimated grass intakes of 10-14kg DM per day, with day and night grazing. This will maintain the cow and support the production of 11-18 litres. Our advice is to walk your farm, monitor the weather forecast for an idea of growth and assess your own situation. Our technical team are available to advise you, please call us for more information.

Suggested Feed Plan for two scenarios depending on spring grazing

	Early start to spring grazing	Late start to spring grazing
Grazing completed by 17th March	50-75% of farm grazed	0-15% of farm grazed
Pre-grazing covers	Pre-grazing covers <900kg DM/ha	Pre-grazing covers >1200kg DM/ha
Average farm cover	<550kg DM/ha	>750kg DM/ha
Forage supply	Most using silage (3-6kg DM) to stretch grass until growth improves	Most grazing day and night to maximise grass intake
Diet to supply 27 litres	5kg DM silage + 7kg DM grass + 6.5kg of concentrate	12kg DM grass + 5.5kg of concentrate
Recommended concentrate feed	PIP Spring Dairy 16, Ultra Dairy 16 Supreme Breeder/ Maxi Breeder 14%	Supreme Breeder, Maxi Breeder 14%



DEROGATION REQUIREMENTS 2020

The Department of Agriculture have released new requirements for farmers operating within the terms of the Nitrates Derogation.

- **Clover in grass seeds**

From 1st January, clover must be included in grass seed mixtures. Brett's Gold Sward Extend and Gold Sward Grass seeds have been reviewed to include increased levels of clover and our new brochure detailing the mixtures is now available online www.brettbrothers.ie

- **Reduction in crude protein levels in feed for grazing stock**

From 1st April, the level of crude protein in a complementary feed for animals getting all their forage allowance from grass must not exceed 16%. Brett's dairy, beef, calf and sheep ranges offer a selection of low protein feeds to complement high protein grass. For dairy cows on grass full-time, we recommend our Breeder Cubes which contain 14% protein and are carefully formulated to balance spring grass. For dairy cows that have an additional forage included e.g. maize silage, grass silage please speak to our technical team to advise on appropriate protein required to balance the diet.

PRODUCT FOCUS

Supreme Breeder Cubes 14%

On the second grazing rotation, spring-calving herds may see butterfat decline in milk, while cows consume lush, leafy grass. This may be a result of reduced structural fibre and increased oil and sugar, causing acidosis in the rumen, negatively influencing butterfat.

Brett's **Supreme Breeder Cubes** include **Actisaf® Live Yeast and Rumen Buffer** to aid rumen function, reduce the risk of acidosis and help minimise the dip in butterfat. In the months of April and May, many of our customers use this product during the 2nd and 3rd rotations to reduce the risk of falling butterfat. This results in more consistent dungs, better rumen fill, improved butterfat and protein percentages. Supreme Breeder cubes also contain the correct level of Cal Mag, protected minerals and urea inhibitors for a flexible feed rate of 3-7kg.



Do you know the symptoms of poor rumen function?
Do your cows have loose, bubbly dung?
Have you noticed a sudden drop in butterfats?

Improve rumen digestion and protect milk constituents with **Bretts Supreme Breeder Cubes**. They provide the recommended level of **Actisaf® live yeast** and minerals in a flexible feeding rate and are formulated to 14% protein to complement lush, leafy grass.

