



## CONTROL GRASSLAND WEEDS TO IMPROVE FEED QUALITY

In April, the focus changes from activities indoors to grass production in the field. Grassland weeds are an ongoing problem in grass swards and have a major effect on grass yield, grass feed quality and utilisation. To increase grass tonnage (DM/Ha), weed control is required to prevent competition in the sward. A clean sward will improve fertiliser efficiency and prevent wasting nutrients on weeds. Making silage can be costly and a 20% weed infestation in a sward corresponds to a 20% loss of potential grass yield and poor silage quality. To prevent common grassland weeds from taking hold in paddocks, good grassland management is essential.

Paul Colgan, Assistant Agronomist at Brett's outlines management tips to minimise weed infestation in grass swards:

- Have soil at the right pH of 6.3 by spreading lime according to recent soil samples
- Provide adequate N,P,K nutrients to promote a dense sward and prevent weed seeds from establishing
- Avoid poaching and overgrazing of grassland

Dock control in grassland poses a significant challenge and requires ongoing annual attention. The key is to gain control early in the season and spray at the correct growth stage. Due to its huge root mass, the herbicide must move down through the dock root to get a good kill on the plant and this can only be achieved if the plant is healthy and actively growing. Spray when the dock is the size of a dinner plate at the rosette stage as shown in the photo.



Paul Colgan and our Technical team are available to walk grassland and advise on reseeding and weed control programmes. Please contact your Technical Sales Representative for further information.

## WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations to our Agronomist, James Irish and his beautiful Wexford bride Sarah Condren on their recent wedding. Unfortunately, current restrictions meant that the Brett's team couldn't join the party, but it didn't dampen this joyful occasion for James and Sarah as they celebrated with family.

We wish the newlywed couple, many years of good health and happiness.



## TOP TIPS FROM OUR TEAM

An avid Kilkenny GAA fan, PJ Barron hails from Windgap, Co. Kilkenny where the first Brett's branch opened in 1940! Having joined the business over 20 years ago, PJ is a valued member of our Technical Sales Team for the past 14 years. He enjoys the hurling banter with his customers in South Kilkenny, Tipperary and Waterford! PJ brings a wealth of knowledge to his customers in all aspects of livestock and grassland production.



PJ's advice for dairy farmers is to **'try and get ahead of any problems that are particular to your farm'**. Every year our team see repeat problems such as a drop in butterfat, cows eating stones or grazing calves presenting with signs of coccidiosis. We encourage customers to discuss these issues in advance of when they normally occur, and it is best to seek a nutritional solution early to prevent the problem arising.

Even though our Technical Team cannot call in the normal way, they are all available via telephone for technical advice and a farm visit can be arranged if required.



## Tackling the Challenges of Second Grazing Rotation

The Grass Watch programme reports grass protein is consistently over 25% and oil levels, which contribute to good energy levels in grass, are approximately 5%. However, lush, leafy grass in the second grazing rotation is lower in fibre (NDF) and this combined with a change in the oil profile of grass can lead to poor rumen function which in turn depresses butterfat.

Brett's Technical Team have specifically developed **Supreme Breeder Cubes** to help tackle this issue. The inclusion of **Actisaf Yeast and Rumen Buffers** maintains optimum rumen pH, aids rumen function, reduces the risk of acidosis and the negative effects associated with it, such as a drop in milk butterfat and cows presenting with loose, bubbly dung. Our customers report more consistent dung, better rumen fill and improved butterfat and protein percentage. For optimum results, feed **Supreme Breeder Cubes** approximately 10 days before starting your second grazing rotation.

**Brett's Supreme Breeder Cubes** contain barley and maize providing energy and are formulated to 14% protein to complement high protein grass and prevent the cow from 'milking off her back'. This dairy cube includes Brett's unique Performance Improvement Pack (PIP) to optimise cow health and reproductive performance. This feed is formulated for flexible feeding (3-6 kgs) and is our most popular dairy cubes for the months of April and May.

Also available with additional Phosphorus to combat a deficiency.



### PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PACK (PIP)



HOOF HEALTH



FERTILITY



RUMEN FUNCTION



MILK PRODUCTION

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

