



Summary of Brett's Silage Results

This year we have carried out over 230 silage analysis, on baled and pit silage. On average the DMD of 1st cut silage is 73%, while 2nd cut silage has an average DMD of 71.1%. This has also been met with an improvement in silage protein, on average 13.3%. However, the variation in silage quality is still significant with DMD ranging from 60% to 80%, protein from 8% to 20.5%, energy from 0.72 to 1.06 UFL and Dry Matter from 15.4% to 67%.

In general, we are seeing a lot of dry silage this year, which could lead to cows eating excess to requirement resulting in over conditioned cows at calving (see Table 1 below). This highlights the importance of having an accurate silage test carried out, as three months of feeding decisions and costs will be underpinned by silage quality. Our advice is to group cows based on their body condition and restrict silage only when necessary.

The silage mineral analysis show that our area is typically lower in copper, selenium and zinc and higher in iron than the standard values given for Irish silage. As a result, it is important to use a dry cow mineral such as the **Brett's PIP Dry Cow**, which includes increased levels of protected minerals along with some of the highest vitamin inclusions available on the market. Cows need to be on a high spec dry cow mineral for at least 6-8 weeks before calving.

Feeding recommendations for silage in dry dairy cows depending on Body Condition Score

Table 1

BCS 3-3.25	3 months out	2 months out	1 month out
64 DMD -	Ad Lib	Ad Lib	+ 0.5 kg
68 DMD	Restrict slightly	Restrict slightly	Ad Lib
72 DMD +	Restrict a lot	Restrict a lot	Ad Lib

BCS 2.5-2.75	3 months out	2 months out	1 month out
64 DMD -	Ad Lib	+1.5 kg	+ 2.5 kg
68 DMD	Ad Lib	+0.5 kg	+ 2.0 kg
72 DMD +	Restrict slightly	Ad Lib	+ 1.5 kg

We recommend feeding a concentrate low in calcium along with ad lib silage or try our **Brett's Supreme Dry Cow Cubes**.

How Much to Feed Weanlings?

Due to the favourable grazing conditions this year, weanlings were housed later than normal. Weigh weanlings and vaccinate/dose in line with appropriate veterinary advice. We have a range of weanling feeds available in coarse and cubed form. With replacement heifers targeted for breeding it is recommended to front load the meal and weigh later in the spring. Feed weanlings according to silage quality – see Table 2.

Feeding Recommendations for Weanlings

Table 2

Silage Quality	Weanlings
64 DMD	2.0-2.5 kgs/day
68 DMD	1.5-2.0 kgs/day
72 DMD	1.0-1.5 kgs/day

Dry Cow Management

January is a crucial month for spring calving dairy cows as it is effectively the last month of the dry period. The aim is to manage the cow to produce a healthy calf, prevent milk fever and associated metabolic disorders around the time of calving and to set the cow up for her next lactation and reproductive cycle. Take time to walk through your cows and assess body condition score of the herd and deal with any issues promptly. It is always good to get a second opinion, the Brett's team are always available to have a look at your dry cows and give expert advice.

TOP TIP

Check that you are feeding the correct amount of dry cow

minerals. Our advice is to feed it twice per day on top of silage if it is not included in a diet feeder mix.

If you would like a copy of our Dry Cow Management Brochure, it is available in print or on our website.

iPad WINNERS

We are grateful to all our customers who have moved to online payments and those who are paying over the phone with debit cards. Since Covid-19 and the launch of our iPad competition earlier this year, we have noted a big increase in electronic payment transactions. We are pleased to announce the six winners of our monthly iPad draws.

- Shane Norris, Tipperary
- Liam Walsh, Kilkenny
- Diarmuid Walsh, Waterford
- Thomas Creagh, Laois
- Pat Dillon, Kilkenny
- Val Whitty, Wexford



Get Ready for Calf Rearing

It is the time of year to get ready for the imminent calving season and use January to pay attention to the calf rearing facilities. Cleaning and disinfecting the calving sheds and calf rearing facilities is time well spent in the fight to boost calf immunity. If you have an automated milk feeder, please remember to clean it and check it is fully functioning. Get ahead with essential supplies of veterinary medicines that may be needed during the calving season and order milk replacer in plenty of time.

SPECIAL OFFER

2 FREE Bags and 1 FREE Goldstart Bodywarmer with every full pallet (60 bags/1.2 tons) of Goldstart Milk Replacer ordered



Goldstart Milk Replacer

- Easily mixed resulting in a consistent solution
- Is suitable for both automated calf feeders and bucket feeding
- Carefully formulated so that it is suitable for twice-a-day feeding from birth and once-a-day feeding for calves that are older than 28 days
- Includes a "mothering smell" to stimulate intake and to ensure a successful transition onto milk replacer
- Contains increased levels of vitamins and minerals to maximise calf immunity
- Fibosel (yeast product) is included to stimulate the immune system and reduce disease risk
- Nuklospray, a specific powder treatment technology, is used to aid digestibility and absorption of protein and fats
- Specifically balanced amino acid profile to optimise the utilisation of dietary protein

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