



FARM GATE REFLECTION

With the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, we are constantly reminded of how fortunate we are to feel safe and be able to continue our daily lives. However, it is becoming apparent that the effects of the situation in Ukraine are impacting the world trade of many commodities with a direct impact on Irish agriculture. The supply chains of fertiliser, chemical sprays, feed materials, milk replacer and minerals are severely disrupted.

We endeavour to explore all avenues of supply to ensure that we can offer the inputs required by the tillage and livestock sectors. This is a challenging time for the Irish agricultural sector and the recent establishment of the National Fodder and Food Security Committee by the government highlights the severity of the crisis further.

We encourage all farmers to focus on measures inside your own farm gate and to assess the situation carefully before making decisions. Despite the unprecedented fertiliser prices our grassland systems are still the backbone to the competitiveness of our local milk, beef, and lamb production. Tillage farmers who planted winter crops last autumn will reap their rewards with good cereal prices this harvest. 'Food security' is now the buzz phrase which will focus the minds of all Governments and EU bureaucrats as climate change and war reduce global food supplies. Input prices are at their highest ever seen and continue to remain uncertain, but thankfully milk and red meat prices are positive.

Our Brett's Technical Team are always available to advise on crop and animal husbandry and to help customers through these challenging times.



HAPPY EASTER

Our offices and branches will be closed on Monday the 18th of April for the Easter Bank Holiday. Please check your requirements and place your bag and bulk orders in advance.



BRETT'S GRASS SEED RANGE

For further information on our Grass Seed Mixtures or to request a copy of our NEW brochure, contact a member of our Technical Sales Team today.





GET ON TOP OF GRASSLAND WEEDS



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. The current price of fertiliser along with fluctuating diesel prices means the cost of producing an acre of silage is now higher and needs to be the best quality possible. A 20% weed infestation in a grass sward can mean that in a 10 bale to the acre crop, 2 bales are wasted and ends up as farmyard manure. To prevent common grassland weeds from taking hold in paddocks, good grassland management is essential.

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.

ATTENTION: CHANGE TO FEED PROTIEN FOR LIVESTOCK FARMERS

Under the new terms of the Nitrates Derogation plan some of the measures implemented will now apply to a wider section of livestock farmers. The levels of crude protein in feed will have a maximum level of 15% on grassland holdings (dairy, beef, and sheep) with stocking rates of 130 kg/Ha of organic nitrogen. Effectively this applies to all dairy farms stocked over 1.45cows/Ha. This measure applies from 15th April until September 30th for any animals 2 years and over on an all-grass diet.

Speak to your Brett's Technical Sales Representative for further information on our range of feeds. Our Breeder and Grazing Cubes in the dairy feed range are 14% protein and are an ideal complement to grass. Calf, weanling, and lamb feed fed to young stock is exempt and will remain unchanged.



PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PACK (PIP)



HOOF HEALTH



FERTILITY



RUMEN FUNCTION



MILK PRODUCTION

PRODUCT FOCUS

Supreme Breeder Cubes include barley and maize providing good energy and are formulated to 14% protein to complement high protein grass and prevent the cow from 'milking off her back'. They include ActiSaf live yeast and Brett's unique Performance Improvement Pack (PIP) to optimise cow health and reproductive performance. Providing Magnesium and minerals required for breeding in a flexible feed rate (3-6 kgs). This is our most popular dairy cube for the months of April and May.

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