



## MILL INVESTMENT AND CUBING LINE UPGRADE

At Brett Brothers we always focus on continuous improvement within our milling and grain handling operations. Increased market share and livestock numbers combined with the seasonality of spring calving dairy systems has led to unprecedented demand for dairy feed, especially when grass growth is restricted for any reason. In response to this, Bretts are pleased to announce a substantial mill investment with a major upgrade to our cubing lines. This upgrade allows us to increase our production capacity to meet this ever-increasing demand and will future proof the mill for years to come. The planning for this project started in 2020 and the installation programme commenced in early 2022.

We now have one last hurdle to get over and for customers of CUBED feed we are asking for your co-operation. Major works are due to take place from 19th to 30th November which will result in us having limited cubed production. Please note that the manufacture of Pig Feed and Coarse Rations will not be affected.

We are currently working hard to build up buffer stocks of Dairy, Beef, Calf and Sheep cubes in our branches and stores to get through this period of limited production. If possible, it would be very helpful if some buffer stock could be built up on your farm by ordering enough feed (ideally for delivery before 17th November) to get through the period 19th to 30th November. During this time there will be some interruptions and more logistics involved to get product onto farm and therefore, a lead in time of at least 2-3 working days is needed to help us service your requirements. We greatly appreciate your understanding in advance. If you have any concerns, please contact your Technical Sales Representative.



## Irish Grassland Association

David Lawrence has recently been elected to the council of the Irish Grassland Association (IGA). The IGA is a voluntary organisation focusing on advancing the knowledge of grassland management in Irish livestock systems. We wish David an enjoyable tenure and we know that colleagues and customers of Brett Brothers will benefit from his involvement in IGA. David will be involved in the sub-committees for Beef and Student Activities.



## Top Tips for November

Early indications from our Technical Team are that fodder stocks in yards are showing huge variability. The high volumes of rain in late October have resulted in livestock being housed earlier than expected and grazing conditions are less than favourable. Assess fodder requirements for the livestock in your yard and ensure that you do a fodder budget for the winter ahead. Plan for the worst-case scenario in the spring months. If a deficit is identified, please discuss this with one of our Technical Sales Representatives as early intervention is critical.

With current fertiliser prices, soil testing and nutrient management will be vital in optimising fertiliser use. Over 50% of soil tests taken by Brett's in the last 5 years have been below the optimum pH of 6.4. Review your soil results, as now is the ideal time to address lime deficiencies and invest in your soils. Applying lime and having the correct pH is critical for maximising fertiliser uptake and soil available nutrients.



## Preparing for the next lactation

With the unprecedented milk price and good milk solids there is a temptation this autumn to 'milk cows on'. However, it is worth remembering that the dry period between lactations is a period of 'rest' for the cow and for those that are doing the milking! The aim is to manage the cow during the dry period 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.



## How long should the dry period be?

The optimum dry cow period is eight weeks; however this can vary depending on the following:

- Body condition of cows in late lactation should be monitored 3 months from calving. Thin and lame cows need a longer dry period to gain bodyweight.
- Target Body Condition Score (BCS) at drying off is between 2.75 and 3.0. If there are a lot of cows outside the optimal range, group cows according to condition score.
- Target BCS at calving is between 3.0 and 3.25, with a slightly higher target of up to 3.50 for in-calf heifers entering the herd.
- Lactation number should be a point of focus, as cows entering their second lactation often fall behind the main herd.
- Cows scanned for multiple births should be dried off for at least 10 -12 weeks.
- Forage quality and quantity available determines energy intake and may influence the length of the dry period, we advise getting silage tested.



## SPECIAL OFFER

Order Brett's Dry Cow Minerals early to avail of our Special Offer!

Every 1 ton pallet ordered for delivery in November, will receive **2 FREE Bags of PIP Dry Cow Minerals.**

For further information on mineral specifications and price, or to request a copy of our Dry Cow Management Brochure, contact the office or your Brett's Technical Sales Representative.



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