



NEW YEAR GREETINGS AND THANK YOU!


As we enter 2023, we would like to wish all our customers and their families a healthy and successful new year. 2022 will be remembered for many things, the start of the war that is ongoing in Ukraine, record prices for inputs and fuel, and thankfully there has also been an increase in farmgate prices.

We would like to thank all our customers for their understanding and patience in recent months while we worked on our mill and cubing line upgrades. We are delighted to report that our new lines are now operational and will be running at increased capacity for this coming spring.



Silage Budgeting Workshops

The dry summer months, coupled with the wet weather conditions in late autumn have certainly 'lengthened' the winter, leading to increased demand for silage. If you have not completed a silage budget, we urge you to do so. If you would like to avail of our silage budgeting services, please inform your Technical Sales Representative or send your contact details by email to forage@brettbrothers.ie or by text to **086 818 5802**. Depending on demand we will run a number of Silage Budgeting Workshops in early January.



Options for stretching silage during the dry period

Feeding straw and meals

Body condition score (BCS) at calving affects milk yield and fertility in the subsequent lactation. The target condition score for dairy cows at calving is 3.25 so diets need to be balanced to ensure cows are not too thin or over fat at calving. If silage is 25% DM a cow would normally need to eat 42-45 kgs of silage per day to meet her requirements. This year, many dairy farmers will have to restrict silage usage and offer alternative feeds. Please see Table 1 with some options but discuss these with your Technical Sales Representative.

Supreme PIP Dry Cow Cube – suitable for parlour feeding with minerals included

If you are tight on feeding space for dry cows and find it difficult to feed Fodder Stretcher Ration at the barrier, we have the perfect solution in the Supreme PIP Dry Cow Cube. This can be offered through the parlour at a rate of 2-3 kgs/cow/day and this ensures every cow gets her allocated feed. It can also be fed on top of silage or through a diet feeder. This cube includes all the minerals required in late pregnancy such as phosphorus, magnesium, copper, and selenium and it includes our own Brett's PIP Dry Cow Minerals.

Table 1. Example dry cow diets with restricted silage:

Dry Cow 575 kgs (10.5 kgs dry matter/day)	Diet A kgs/ cow/day	Diet B kgs/ cow/day	Diet C kgs/ cow/day
Grass silage 68% DMD at 25% DM	35	25	27
Straw	0	2	2.5
Bretts Fodder Stretcher	2.0	2.5	0
Bretts Dry Cow Cube	0	0	2
PIP Dry Cow Minerals (120 grams/day)	0.12	0.12	0

PRODUCT FOCUS

Fodder Stretcher Ration

This ration is carefully formulated by our Nutritionist as a partial replacement for forage. It is a blend of raw materials that are high in fibre and nutritionally is similar to a 67% DMD silage. It contains no added minerals and is safe to feed to dry cows, store cattle and weanlings over 6 months. This feed can be safely fed up to 5 kgs to dry cows.

Feeding 3 kgs to 100 dry cows for 4 weeks will save approximately 30 tons of silage (25% DM)

TOP TIP

When feeding dry cow minerals, please ensure there is sufficient feed space for all cows to have access to the mineral. We recommend feeding dry cow minerals twice per day or include as part of the diet feeder total ration.



Restructuring of our Sales Team

As many customers know, there has been a vacancy within our southeast sales area in south Kilkenny, Carlow and Wexford. Following a recruitment and restructuring process we are delighted to announce some changes that have come into effect in recent weeks.

David Maddock who is a native of Mullinavat and has been working with Bretts in Tipperary will be the new Technical Sales Representative in south Kilkenny and Carlow area. Seamus Whitty is from Taghmon in Wexford and is familiar to many customers in east Waterford. As well as servicing the Waterford customer base, Seamus will now also be looking after our customers in Wexford. Both David and Seamus are Agricultural Science graduates and will bring a wealth of technical knowledge to your farming enterprise, they will be supported by Michael Foley, our Ruminant Support Specialist in the southeast.

WELCOME

We would like to give a warm welcome to Tom Griffin who has recently joined our Technical Sales Team in Bretts. Tom is an experienced professional in the agricultural sector and brings great experience to our team. He lives and farms near Fethard and is a former manager of the Glanbia branch in Fethard. With his knowledge of farming in your area, Tom will enhance our determination to offer value, service and technical assistance to all our customers. Tom will be predominately covering our customer base in south Tipperary and will be working closely with our Ruminant Support Specialist, David Lawrence.



Liam Brett welcomes Tom Griffin to the team

Contact numbers:

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 South Kilkenny/Carlow – David Maddock – 087 120 6785
 South Tipperary – Tom Griffin – 087 413 5770

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