



Matters for March

Spring has got off to a great start, with excellent grazing conditions and stock out on many farms. This has greatly reduced the reliance on silage; however, it is critical to ensure you have enough stocks available if grazing conditions or grass supply are compromised later in the spring. Now is a good time to take stock of grass allocations and to budget silage and grass according to your own farm.

It is important to avoid making rash decisions that will have long term consequences on animal performance. For dairy cows, we must protect milk solids and subsequent fertility leading up to the breeding season. Let's hope that March does not live up to the name of a month of many weathers, but the most important note to remember is that the feeding situation and approach to grazing remains flexible.



Crude protein in feed

There is some confusion regarding the permitted levels of protein in animal feed. The most important thing is to assess the diet on your own farm and supplement according to the levels of grass available and the quantity and quality of silage.

In line with the Nitrates Regulations and the focus on improving water quality, the Department of Agriculture have issued guidance in relation to protein fed to grazing animals. From April 15th, the maximum permitted level of protein will be 15% for animals over 2 years of age that are grazing full time. Calves and animals under 2 years of age are excluded.

Consult your Bretts Technical Representative for further advice but from now until 15th April there is no restriction.



MARCH SPECIAL OFFER

Brett's Ultra Calf Feed

€50 off orders of bulk calf feed over 3 tons OR receive two bags FREE with every full pallet (minimum order 1.4 tons) ordered.



Tillage Conference 2023

The challenges facing tillage farmers in 2023 and beyond was the main theme at our recent tillage conference held in Clonmel, where we welcomed 150 of our tillage growers. Planning for the "Green Deal" and reform of the CAP with the many new environmental regulations were some of the topics discussed. Native cereals have always been the backbone of our animal feed business and with more focus on the carbon footprint of all food items on the supermarket shelves, the role of locally produced cereals for livestock farms to produce milk, beef, lamb, and pork has never been so important.

The event was chaired by our agronomist James Irish, and speakers included Andy Doyle, former tillage editor of the Irish Farmers Journal, Tony Markey, Arkady, Robbie Byrne, Precision Nutrition and John Dunne, Goldcrop and tillage farmer. On the night, Jimmy Brett, Group Managing Director, presented Andy Doyle with a beautiful piece of Kilkenny Crystal to acknowledge his contribution to the Irish tillage sector and mark his recent retirement as tillage editor with the Irish Farmers Journal.



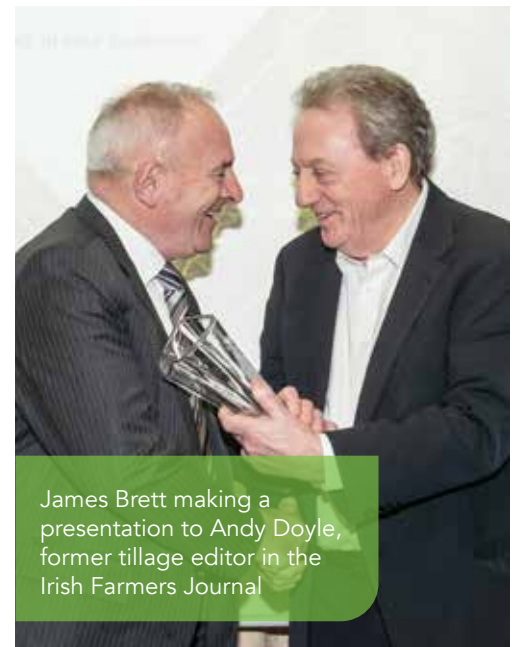
Joe Pollard, Bretts, John Hanrahan, Grange, Tony Nugent, Coolmore, James Brett, Liam Ahearn and Sean Brett



Larry Cantwell, Windgap, Paul Colgan, James Irish and Liam Brett



Cereal growers in attendance



James Brett making a presentation to Andy Doyle, former tillage editor in the Irish Farmers Journal

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