




ANOTHER GREAT IVERK SHOW

We were delighted to welcome customers to our stand at Iverk Show on August 26th where a record attendance was recorded. It is always a delight to see many of our customers exhibit livestock in the dairy, beef and sheep classes and we give a hearty congratulations to all those that took home some rosettes and silverware! The Iverk Show was founded in 1826, which makes it Ireland's oldest agricultural show. The hard-working committee behind the scenes deserve special recognition for ensuring the continued success of the show.



Are your animals on target?

With the late turnout in the spring and poor weather this summer, a lot of animals might fall behind target weight this autumn.

Finishing cattle: Feeding meal to finishing cattle at grass in the last six weeks before slaughter can help increase carcass weights, kill out % and fat cover. Select the heaviest animals that you plan to finish before housing and target feeding 2-4kg of concentrates depending on grass quality and availability. Try to keep grass covers between 1200-1400kg DM/ha to achieve the best performance. We have Beef Elite or Eurobeef Cubes available and we also offer our Coarse Beef as a suitable option for this stock.

Weanlings: Creep feeding suckler weanlings and allowing them to forward graze ahead of the cows will give them the best opportunity to increase growth rates. Offering 1-2kg of concentrates will also reduce stress at weaning. Male spring born calves in a calf-beef system should also be fed at grass prior to housing. Bretts Weanling Cube, Surethrive Cubes or Beef Crunch are ideally suited in this situation.

Calves: Replacement heifer calves should be 190kg by late September (580kg mature weight cow). These animals need to be on target in order for breeding next spring. Try and concentrate on the younger and lighter calves in particular. Separating them out from the larger group will allow them the best chance to thrive. Weigh your calves and get a handle on what the best course of action is to reach their target weights. Heifer Rearer Cubes/Ration is high energy and 18% protein. This includes added Calcium and Phosphorus to promote good bone development which is crucial for increasing cow longevity in the herd.

Safety message: Beware of bulls and heavy cattle when feeding concentrates at grass. Always assess the safety of how you feed concentrates and have an easy escape route to a gate or vehicle.

Longer rotation will ensure autumnal grass

With the consistent wet weather, grass dry matters remain low (13-15%). A recent grass sample shows 14kg intake of grass supports approximately 14 litres of milk. This time of year, it's important to increase the rotation length to 30 days. A longer rotation now will ensure enough grass ahead of the stock closer to October/November. In September, consider introducing silage and extra concentrates to slow down the rotation. This will also help increase dry matter of the overall diet. Remember grass grown and grazed in the autumn will effect your grass available in the spring. Try to achieve clean outs without damaging the ground.



IMPORTANT:

Dairy farmers can only feed a maximum of 15% protein nut/ration to all animals over two years of age on a 100% grass-based diet. This rule applies until September 30th. The only exception to this rule is if you are feeding other forages such as grass/maize silage, whole crop or fodder beet. These rules do not apply to younger stock under two years of age, i.e. calves/ weanlings.

Important dates to remember!



September 1st: All farmers purchasing fertiliser or lime must be registered with DAFM on the National Fertiliser Database and we require a herd number for each customer account in order to sell fertiliser or lime.

September 15th: The closed period for spreading chemical fertiliser commences.

September 15th: The date for recording a closing stock of fertiliser on the farm (even if it is nil).

September 30th: The final date for spreading slurry.

October 1st: The date which marks the end of the restricted crude protein period in the feed for grazing animals older than two years.

October 14th: The date by which farmers must submit closing fertiliser stocks (even if they are nil) to the National Fertiliser Database.

Farewell Wishes

We are very sorry to announce that Pat Delaney, our Technical Sales Representative in the midlands, is leaving us for pastures new. Pat has been a valued member of our team since 2015 and will be sorely missed by his customers in Laois and North Tipperary where he delivered technical support at farm level. We want to wish Pat all the best in his future career within the Agri Industry.



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