



Newsletter

September 2025



This beautiful photo by Mary Nugent, taken at sunset over the tillage fields of Ardfinnan, was selected as this year's Harvest photo.

Maize Silage

Crops of Forage Maize have performed really well and appear to have great potential this season when it comes to delivering high value feed for intensively-fed beef animals and dairy cows.

Maize is an expensive crop to grow and, as with anything of high value, it would be unwise not to have insurance. Therefore, it is vital to correctly preserve maize silage in order to maximise the financial return from your investment.

In recent years, we have seen issues with moulds; the mycotoxins they produce have caused performance issues with livestock so treating maize at ensiling with an additive reduces the risk of spoilage at the pit face.

Treated maize silage reaches aerobic stability 3-5 days faster than non-treated maize and maintains a lower temperature throughout feeding, resulting in greater energy and dry matter yield. Ensiling maize reduces secondary fermentation, keeps the pit face cool and stable at feed-out and improves animal performance.

Trials in dairy cows have shown milk yield response of up to 1.8 litres/cow/day. Available in both powder and liquid application, one bag or bottle of EcoCorn from Volac will treat 50T of Maize Silage. To place your order, contact your Bretts Technical Sales Representative.

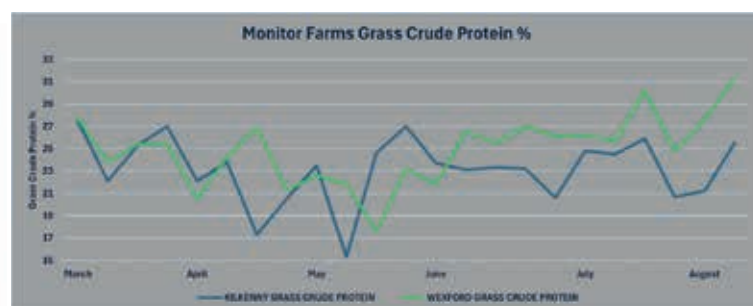
SPECIAL OFFER

Order 5 Maize Silage Additives this September and get 1 free!

You can place your order for EcoCorn with your Bretts Technical Sales Representative.



- The recent dry spell reduced grass growth during the latter part of August but the rainfall of recent weeks has thankfully led to some welcome greening up.
- Grass Dry Matter has been high for most of August (17-20%) but with rain forecasted it is important to be mindful of variable grass dry matter during September. When grass dry matter intakes are reduced, the overall energy intake from grass will drop if supplementation is not increased accordingly to make up the deficit.
- Grass proteins have been measured weekly on the two farms where we are currently sampling grass. The summary graph below shows the huge variance in grass proteins throughout the growing season. Between these two farms, the grass proteins dipped as low as 15% in mid-May and in recent weeks have hit over 30%. A variance in protein of 15% in the main forage of the diet can have a significant influence on animal performance when it comes to daily liveweight gain in lambs, calves and cattle and, of course, milk yield.
- There are many factors that affect Grass Crude Proteins such as: the age of the sward, grass varieties, weather and soil moisture affecting nitrogen uptake, soil fertility, soil pH, days between spreading of fertiliser and grazing and total nitrogen spread to list just a few.





Three generations of the Smyth family from Windgap pictured with PJ Barron.

Another Great Iverk Show

The Iverk Show, held annually on the fourth weekend in August, signifies the end of the summer. During this year's show, which was held on Saturday, August 23rd, it was great to see so many tillage farmers savouring the event as opposed to battling the elements to save a harvest!

This year marked the show's 199th year and we were delighted to be in our usual spot in the Showgrounds to meet and greet our customers. The Iverk Show committee work tirelessly and credit must be given to them for their superb work, most of which is conducted behind the scenes.



Heather Peppard pictured with Padraig Brophy at our Iverk Show stand.



Three of the friendly voices our customers regularly deal with over the phone, pictured at the Iverk Show: Alanagh, Anne Marie and Katie.



Thanks to Ed O'Donnell (O'Donnell Crisps), the kids who visited our stand really enjoyed his produce! Ed is pictured outside our busy stand with Liam Brett.

Harvest Update

Weather conditions for harvesting during August were excellent. In calendar year terms, 2025 has delivered one of the earliest ever finish dates when it comes to the harvesting and storing of wheat, barley and oats. During September, beans – a really important source of native protein that we've incorporated into our ruminant feed range – will be harvested.

Forage Budgeting

Autumn is a good time to take account of what silage you have in the yard and to budget for your winter requirements. With a lot of silage fed to supplement grass deficits, it is important to take stock and plan ahead until next spring. If you require assistance with this, please contact your Sales Representative.

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