



## Christmas Greetings

We wish you and yours a happy and healthy Christmas season. The weather has been kind to farmers this year with abundant grass growth and excellent harvesting conditions for tillage. We have seen strong milk and cattle prices this year, which have been a boost for farmers.

As we look forward to 2026 we do need to note that there are darker clouds on the horizon. Cereal growers are clearly under pressure due to the strong supply of cheaper grains from North and South America. I have always opined that cheap grain is not in Ireland's interest as the beneficiaries are primarily feeders who get an advantage over our grass-based output. Similarly, pig and poultry farmers here are hit by cheaper meat from those areas.

Pig farmers are in crisis as pig prices have dropped below cost of production, with uncertainty about next year's prospects. It is amazing that we are still in doubt about the Nitrates derogation, which is so important to our dairy industry. While EU preaches about sustainability, they leave thousands of our farmers in the dark about their future stocking plans!

Thank you most sincerely for your business with us this past year and stay safe over the Christmas. Let's hope that the new Year will bring good weather, good health and happiness to you and your family.

Happy Christmas!

James J Brett  
Group Chairman

## Silage Quality

This year we are seeing variations in silage quality. Silage quality results are seen to be variable across many farms with DMD values ranging between 62.26 – 79.78 for 1st cut silage and 62.28 – 75.22% for 2nd cut silage. Both cuts average below the targeted 72% DMD for good quality silage.

The most important message for all our customers is to know what silage quality you have within your own yard and have a feeding plan in place for the various categories of livestock on your farm.

|                        | 1st Cut Silage Avg | 2nd Cut Silage Avg | Baled Silage Avg |
|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Dry Matter %</b>    | 27.14              | 32.69              | 41.33            |
| <b>Crude Protein %</b> | 12.02              | 12.67              | 13.88            |
| <b>DMD %</b>           | 70.57              | 67.83              | 67.59            |
| <b>ME (MJ/kg)</b>      | 10.63              | 10.19              | 10.15            |
| <b>UFL</b>             | 0.89               | 0.83               | 0.82             |
| <b>NDF %</b>           | 51.31              | 51.76              | 48.29            |
| <b>Intake</b>          | 95.89              | 99.94              | 101.49           |
| <b>pH</b>              | 3.97               | 4.32               | 4.85             |

## Christmas/New Year Delivery Schedule 2025/26

To efficiently manage deliveries over the Christmas holiday period, we kindly ask that all orders are placed by **Wednesday, December 17th**:



### Christmas/New Year Delivery Schedule 2025/26

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Monday December 22nd    | DELIVERIES         |
| Tuesday December 23rd   | DELIVERIES         |
| Wednesday December 24th | LIMITED DELIVERIES |
| Thursday December 25th  | CLOSED             |
| Friday December 26th    | CLOSED             |
| Saturday December 27th  | CLOSED             |
| Sunday December 28th    | CLOSED             |
| Monday December 29th    | DELIVERIES         |
| Tuesday December 30th   | DELIVERIES         |
| Wednesday December 31st | DELIVERIES         |
| Thursday January 1st    | CLOSED             |
| Friday January 2nd      | DELIVERIES         |

(Please Order Early)



### 2026 Bretts Calendar

Our 2026 Calendar is now available. If you haven't picked up your copy they are available at our branches and from your Sales Representative.



## Don't forget to order your Dry Cow Minerals!

### Bretts PIP Dry Cow Minerals

Bretts PIP Dry Cow Minerals are specifically formulated to meet the requirements of the dry cow, taking into consideration that Irish silage is generally high in potassium and low in trace minerals. The incidence of problems such as retained afterbirth, milk fever and stillborn calves can be reduced greatly with good dry cow management.

We suggest feeding minerals twice per day or include as part of a diet feeder ration. Order today! Contact your local Bretts Sales Representative or request a copy of our Dry Cow Management brochure which is available from the office or visit our website.



## SPECIAL OFFER

Order Bretts PIP Dry Cow minerals now and get **2 BAGS FREE WITH EVERY 1 TON ORDER.**

Contact the office or your Technical Sales Rep for further information on the specifications and prices.

Brett Brothers Ltd.,  
Callan, Co. Kilkenny  
Tel: 056 7755300

Brett Brothers Ltd.,  
Windgap, Co. Kilkenny  
Tel: 051 648204

Brett Brothers Ltd.,  
Ardfinnan, Co. Tipperary  
Tel: 052 7466208

Brett Brothers Ltd.,  
Portlaw, Co. Waterford  
Tel: 051 387396

