



## Have you been experiencing issues with Cows eating Stones?

There have been certain herds reporting that cows have been eating stones and other objects such as metal pipes!



This is commonly associated with the term PICA – which can be an indicative of acidosis or Phosphorus (P) deficiency. One solution to alleviate the problem is to offer additional phosphorus. All stock have a basic requirement for phosphorus, but milking cows especially have an additional requirement of 2 grams for every litre of milk produced. During peak milk production demand for phosphorus is high and if cows are grazing lush leafy grass with a low phosphorus level then supplementation may be needed.

Our **Supreme Breeder 14% Cubes** are fortified with a much higher level of phosphorus than a standard dairy cube. If your cows are experiencing signs of a phosphorus deficiency it is important to get a line of diagnosis in conjunction with your vet to put a plan in place.

## Crop Update from Thomas Hession

Winter crops are looking very promising; disease levels remain moderate and the recent warm sunny weather came at the ideal time to optimise the grain fill period. There is however some BYDV present in areas which will impact yield in affected crops so this is worth watching out for.

Spring barley and oats are now well away thanks to the recent favourable growing conditions. Disease levels remain low, with the majority of crops having received a T1 fungicide application recently. Spring beans are also off to an ideal start and look very well, and T1 fungicides are currently being applied.



## Supporting Calves against Summer Scour

Over the years there has been a notable issue with spring born calves going through a difficult time after being turned out to grass.

The transition of a newly weaned calf from an indoor environment of a dry, fresh bed with access to fresh straw or hay to an outdoor environment of lush, leafy grass and dealing with outdoor elements like rain and varying temperatures can be a challenge.

- When young animals are stressed, their immune system is adversely affected, and this can lead to an increased incidence of clinical sickness such as scours and pneumonia. Stressed calves are very prone to picking up coccidiosis and if your farm has a history of this don't wait until you have sick calves – discuss a plan with your vet to try and get ahead of the problem.

Bretts have a range of natural feed additives that can help reduce the risk or onset of coccidiosis – while veterinary intervention is often required.

- Wet weather can also add stress levels on all livestock, but especially calves. Our advice is to ensure that there's plenty of shelter in the field and supplementation is appropriate to the grass supply in conjunction with the age and weight of the calves. Feeding calves at the same time everyday is a useful way of checking for the onset of illnesses. Where grass is very leafy, offering a form of additional roughage is of benefit as young calves also suffer the effects of acidosis so it's important to choose a feed that includes feed additives to prevent acidosis.

**Ultra Calf EXTRA** – Ask your Bretts sales representative about our EXTRA Health package that can be included in our Ultra Calf 18% Cubes. These cubes are formulated with a unique blend of feed additives to improve the performance of calves at grass and helps to reduce the risk of acidosis with the aim of boosting the calves immunity as they transition to grass.

**Ultra Calf EXTRA** also contains **PulmoCX** which includes an essential oil widely used to provide a natural solution to boosting the animals ability to cope with coccidial challenges.



## Save the Date Iverk Show 2026

We are thrilled to announce that the Iverk show 200th Year Anniversary Show will take place on Saturday, 22nd of August. This is a special date in the Brett Brothers calendar and we couldn't be prouder to sponsor and celebrate such an incredible show.

We look forward to seeing many of our customers on the day.

## Product Focus

### Maxi Grow Calf Cubes 17%

**Maxi Grow Calf Cubes 17%** are the ideal follow on from our Ultra Calf 18% cubes. These cubes are suitable for feeding to weaned calves that are at least 10 weeks of age or older. These 17% cubes are suitable for feeding to either heifer or bull calves. This feed is carefully formulated and well balanced with Phosphorus and Calcium which are essential for the development of the skeletal frame.

**Maxi Grow Calf Cubes 17%** is available in Bulk or Bags (25kg).



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