



Dairy Cows on Autumn Grass

During the drought silage feeding led to higher protein concentrates being fed in the parlour. Recent rainfall resulted in phenomenal grass growth rates with dairy herds back grazing full time, and most of the silage has been removed from diets. At present grass is 'lush and leafy' and the level of protein in grass is well above 25%. This grass is high in sugar and low in fibre, more typical of grass in late spring so dung are loose. Milk Urea levels are a key indicator in looking at the protein supply of the diet and it is a useful tool in decision making regarding what level of protein to feed in the parlour. If milk ureas are on the lower end (<18), it would suggest a lack of protein in the diet and additional protein is needed.

For milk ureas reading >40, it would suggest that there is excess protein in the diet. With the current high protein in grass milk urea results are being reported to be very high, ranging from 30 to 60. In this case it is important to select a lower level of protein to feed in the parlour such as 14% or 16%. From October 1st, there is no restriction on the level of protein that can be fed to dairy cows and as weather conditions can vary always order a feed suitable for the grass supply and the other feeds available. Remember October is a risk period for Grass Tetany in grazing cows so always check that you are feeding the correct levels to suit the parlour feed. Always monitor Bulk Milk results focusing on yield, protein %, butterfat % and milk ureas. Every farm is different and it is important to discuss these factors with your Technical Sales Representative who will advise you on what to feed.

Grass Match 14% Cubes are ideal for cows on an all-grass diet. If milk ureas are running over 25 continue with a 14%. This cube includes Acid Buf which is a calcified seaweed that helps maintain rumen pH. This is very important on the lush grass that is currently ahead of cows.

Autumn Dairy Cubes 16% are suitable on an all-grass diet and recommended when silage is introduced to the diet to stretch grass.

Forage Type	Recommended Dairy Cube	Feed Level to provide 2oz (56grams) of Cal Mag
Grass Only	Grass Match 14% Autumn Dairy 16%	2.0kg 3.0kg
Grass + <5kgs DM Grass Silage	Autumn Dairy 16% PIP Dairy 16%16%	3.0kg 3.0kg
Grass by day and silage by night	Autumn Dairy 16% / PIP 16% Milk Max 18% MilkWell 18%	3.0kg 4.0kg 4.0kg
Grass Silage ONLY	Milk Max 18% MilkWell 18%	4.0kg 4.0kg

Autumn is upon us and thankfully September was a great month with exceptional grass growth. Good ground conditions are allowing livestock farms to utilise grass, get some silage made and tillage farms are getting ahead with ploughing and sowing of winter crops. The harvesting of maize silage is almost complete providing much needed fodder for the winter.

Fodder Focus

Many farms are facing a silage deficit, and to support our customers we are offering a silage budgeting service. At present every farm is utilising grass which is the best way to 'save silage' so long may the good grazing conditions last! In our November newsletter we will focus on managing a silage deficit.

It is critical to know the quality of silage in the pit and a silage test is a small investment which gives accurate information to help put a feeding plan in place.

Test your silage

- For silage being fed to dry cows a mineral analysis is recommended to reduce the risk of unexpected issues at calving.

Do a Fodder Budget

- Measure pits and count bales, summarise all livestock
- Be realistic about the length of the winter and allow stocks for supplementing grass shortages in the spring.

Please contact your Sales Rep to organise silage samples for analysis or to complete a fodder budget.



Preparing Weanlings for Housing

A well-planned pre-housing programme, including worm dosing, vaccination and a gradual transition from grass to silage and concentrates, is key to minimising the risk of a setback to weanlings when they are housed. To reduce the stress at weaning and housing we recommend concentrate supplementation for all calf to beef reared and suckler weanlings while they are still at grass.

For suckler farmers availing of the Beef Welfare Scheme there is a mandatory requirement to introduce meal feeding for a period of 4 weeks pre-weaning and to continue 2 weeks after weaning.

Bretts Surethrive Beef Cubes 16% or Beef Crunch Ration 16% are ideal for feeding to weanlings.



Reducing the Risk of Respiratory Infections in Housed Weanlings

Housed weanlings are always at a high risk of developing respiratory infections, particularly with 'mild and muggy' weather. Bretts have used **Pulmosure** for over 10 years. It is a well proven, easy-to-use powder blend containing essential oils and immune-supporting ingredients, which is fed to weanlings at housing for approximately ten days.



Incorporating Pulmosure into the housing programme can provide additional respiratory support during this high-risk transition period for youngstock.



Why use Pulmosure?

- Supports mucus production, helping to clear the airways
- Provides antibacterial activity against pathogens and harmful bacteria associated with respiratory infections
- Supports immunity through additional vitamin E and selenium supplementation.

Pulmosure has been successfully used by many farmers as part of their approach to preventing outbreaks of clinical pneumonia. It is often referred to by customers as the 'Vicks for cattle'. Pulmosure is supplied in a 7 kg bucket, which will treat approximately 23 weanlings weighing 250 kg.

A 250 kg weanling is fed 30 grams per day, either top dressed over silage or mixed through a small amount of meal.

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