



From Field to Feed - *Feeding Your Success*

Summer Newsletter

CEREAL HARVEST 2006

Generally grain quality has been good in this area with only a few samples showing damage from the effects of the drought, though the further east you go the more severe the drought stress has been.

At the time of writing current prices for Barley this year, ex-farm are £63-£64.00/tonne & prices for wheat are approx. £70.00/tonne ex-farm. Barley is trading at roughly the same levels as last year – with wheat prices rising through the Autumn, but still

nothing to get excited about. Even if wheat reaches over £80/tonne it is worth remembering how much it has cost you to grow. A Recent (2004) Exeter University study of the costs of crop production showed that for even the top 25% of the producers the cost to produce 1 tonne of wheat was some £78.00 per tonne & therefore after taking off haulage & quality deductions, many will be selling at a loss. And if you have to replace that cereal with

bought-in feed, remember that wheat has an average ME of 13.7 (MJ.kg DM) - & so it's relative energy value @ cost price is pretty hard to beat (even with moist feeds). Therefore if you have live-stock it makes sense to feed as much home-grown cereal as possible to reduce total feed costs.



MILK FROM GRAZING!?!

Are You Buffer Feeding?

Predicting milk from grazing has been a contentious issue for many years, but this year it has been a disaster in terms of trying to maximise milk yield from grazing. We have had just one month (May) this season where grazing was at optimum quality & quantity and since, as a result of a very dry spring & summer, seen grazing disappear.

This means most dairy farmers will have been buffer feeding their cows to sustain yields & hold condition post-calving. During periods like these it is important not to over-estimate potential milk yield from grazing, which will ultimately result in cows being under-fed. According to Frank Wrights 'Milk Yield from Grazing Update' - the national average potential milk yield from grazing was Mainte-

nance + 11.4 litres during the first week of July 06 – from a predicted grass DM intake of 12.1 kg/day. The comparable values for the same week last year were: M +18 litres & 15.2kg respectively, showing lower potential yields & intakes this year.

BUFFER FEED NOW!

Many herds will be calving-in a blocks during these summer months. It is therefore vital that DMI, yields & milk quality are monitored & managed to avoid depressing the potential lactation & cow health through post-partum weight-loss.

Despite the current poor grazing conditions yields seem to be only 2-3 litres below expectations, BUT if your milk protein &/or butter-fats are depressed this indicates inadequate intakes/

energy & cows will lose weight rapidly.

To avoid 'milking off their backs' provide some form of buffer feed now.

If you cannot bring them in or feed as a separate group, you should be buffer feeding out in the field with grass/maize/wholecrop silage & if available rolled cereals in a home-mix.

If you have beef stock – please also bear the lack of grazing in mind & don't let growing beef stock at grass lose all the condition they gained while housed. If necessary you should provide buffer feeds such as grass/maize silage or a concentrate/home-mix. This also applies to Suckler cows with/without calves who can quickly lose condition which can affect fertility.

If you can not easily feed on daily basis, consider putting out some feed licks/blocks to

ORGANIC UPDATE

B & W - SOIL ASSOCIATION CERTIFICATION/APPLICATION Organic conversions are on the increase, particular in the milk sector due to higher organic milk price contracts (fuelled by a higher demand for organic milk). Organic customers already account for approx. 10% of our processing tonnage & we can supply a range of NGM/organic products to balance organic cereals/ forage crops. NGM (cert ID) Prairie Meal is available on contract now for this coming winter – don't wait any longer, we have seen a price rise of £70/tonne since the start of this year. **BOOK YOUR ORGANIC PROTEINS ASAP**

If you are looking for help in working out organic mill/mix rations, please give us a call. We are also always looking for Organic cereals/pulses to pass onto to other organic customers who cannot grow all their requirements.

PLEASE RING IF YOU HAVE ANY ORGANIC CROPS AVAILABLE FOR SALE.

NGM (CertID) Prairie Meal available on Contract from Tracey Lownds Tel 01258 830100

Book Your Proteins now.

Feed Buckets/ Mineral Lick Range

- **GP Beef**
- **Fertility Extra**
- **Pre-Calver / Dry Cow**
- **High Energy Sheep**

