HARPERS FEEDS
Focused on nutrition

feedtalk

Issue 45• *August 2022*

CREAMFIELD KEEPS ON DELIVERING

We have manufactured many different dairy diets over the 30 years we have been in business, always looking to produce feeds that help farmers meet the challenges they face and to help them grasp any opportunities. In this time, one diet stands out delivering milk persistency and high milk quality over a wide range of management systems and that is our Creamfield range.

With 85% of all milk produced in Devon, Cornwall and Somerset destined for manufacturing contracts, with milk price largely dependent on milk constituents, it is imperative that the dairy compound complements home grown forages and boosts both milk fat and protein.

Balance is key

To do this, you must have the correct balance of proteins to stimulate yield, backed up by the necessary starch to promote bacterial fermentation and digestion of the forages fed. In addition, the compound must support butterfat production by providing and creating the long chain fatty acids that are the precursors of fat production.

The key to the success of our Creamfield diets lies in the balance that has been achieved in the feed, driving production of yield, fat, and protein. Being a fixed formulation feed means you can be confident of load-by-load consistency of performance.

The addition of Novatan, a blend of active ingredients which has a specific action optimizing protein release and rumen function, means more by-pass protein, more peptides and amino acids are directly digestible in the intestine where they are more efficiently used for milk yield and milk protein production.

We have never seen a diet perform so well over all four seasons, whether spring, summer, autumn or winter. Creamfield keeps giving.

If you look at the diet you will see a wide range of ingredients, which, when combined and fed go into the rumen, fill the areas and get in amongst the forages which encourages the rumen bacteria to thrive and digest all the nutrients allowing them to be absorbed through the gut wall into the bloodstream. This activity will also increase nutrient capture, preventing nutrients passing through the cow so that better use is made of the diet.

We all want the cow to get the benefits of the nutrients and not the dung, so check it out for yourself. If you look at the dung of cows being fed Creamfield you will see first class digestion which is the key to success.

Summer and winter success

One farming family who has seen great success with Creamfield is Ian, Angela and Harriet Foale who farm at Higher Kellaton Farm near Kingsbridge. They milk 100 mainly autumn calving Pedigree Holstein Friesians, averaging 8000 litres at 4.30% butterfat and 3.44% protein with 3600 litres coming from forage. The cows are fed a partial TMR using both maize and grass silage throughout the winter and normally grazed through the summer with cake in the parlour.

Ian Foale says using Harpers Creamfield including Novatan dairy nuts has helped them achieve the best results they can from their system. It works well with the high quality grass silage and maize in the TMR during the winter, when they are looking to produce the most milk they can, from their predominantly Autumn calving cows. Creamfield also works well during the summer as the digestible fibre element of the diet helps the cows breakdown and utilise the protein from fresh grass. They are keen to optimise milk quality and produce the most milk they can from forage. The Creamfield dairy cake has definitely helped them to achieve this.

For more information on our Creamfield range, please speak to your Feed Specialist or call the office on 01409 254 300.

Bill Harper
Director
07831 099 182

Farming thoughts

It has been great to see so many farmers supporting our local agricultural shows this year. We are proud to be part of the community and we look forward to seeing more of you over the next month.

A little sprinkle of rain at the end of the month gave the grass a little bit of life but not enough to do any good. All livestock need forage, if you haven't got grass, you need to supplement with clamp silage, bales, or hay.

Although stock look happy out there in dry weather, we still need to keep their rumens full. Keep re-evaluating stock levels to see how much more forage needs to be made before winter and plan accordingly.

We have essential maintenance to carry out on the mill between Friday 12th and Monday 15th August. We need to put a new transformer in, as the current one has been there since our opening in 1997! This means the mill will be closed for four days. We will make plenty of stock beforehand, but please place your orders for that week urgently.

At Harpers we are always looking at ways to promote British agriculture. From day one, our emphasis has and will always be Q.V.S- quality, value and service. Its what we have built the business on. Going forward you will see a new strapline 'Feeding the animals that feed the nation' alongside the Union Jack. With this ethos, we are looking at all aspects of our business so that it is run in a safe, efficient, and sustainable way.

The lower, off-the-combine cereal prices means we are able to reduce the price of our high cereal, lower protein rations as of 1st August – finally, some good news on feed pricing!

Glen Johns
Sales Director
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GRAIN AND STRAIGHTS

With the UK and European harvest progressing over a week earlier than normal, we are seeing prices come under pressure. However, the market remains volatile with price swings of up to £20/T in a day.

On CBOT, wheat values are lower than pre-Ukrainian war levels. However, the strong dollar is having a big impact on this. At the time of writing the big focus is whether there will be a Black Sea Export Corridor. Even though grain is being exported over land using many methods, this is proving relatively inefficient. With over 20 million tonnes of old crop Ukrainian grains left to export, the only viable way to export the target of 6 million tonnes per month is via the Black Sea. If these exports don't take place this will lead to storage issues for new crop.

The chart below compares Ukrainian production over the last few years and demonstrates that production will be significantly down on previous years.

Andrew Davies
Operations Director
01409 254 300

On the protein side rape has eased, but soya remains expensive, trading in the late £400 per tonne with a premium for the summer over the winter while we wait for a large US crop in the autumn which could put pressure on prices. The main issue is the strong dollar compared to where the currency was six months ago which is currently putting £60/t on prices.

Fibres are likely to be an issue as we see a shortage of sugar beet. The UK crop is smaller this year and imported products are going to be inflated in price as Russia produces vast quantities of sugar beet. Currently sugar beet is trading at £330/t for the winter, some £40/t over soya hulls.

We are also likely to see energy prices have an affect. The majority of by- products, such as sugar beet, wheat gluten and wheatfeed either have to be dried or processed. Unfortunately it is not just about the commodity at present.

If you would like to discuss any of these matters, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01409 254 300.

FEEDING FINISHING STOCK AT GRASS

What a summer! The good weather that has helped make some wonderful forages has definitely over-played its hand and we are now looking at severe drought.

Grassland production has slowed to nearly nothing on many farms, and while cows, cattle and sheep look well, underneath many have lost condition.

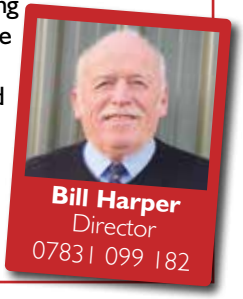
The first requirement is to keep mature animals full of fibre, while younger animals need to be supplied with protein and energy. I would suggest suckler cows and strong growing cattle need hay or haylage in round feeders. Finishing cattle need 1% of their bodyweight as concentrates along with forage. Calves, younger grazing cattle and lambs need aftermath grazing or creep feeding.

All lambs are better off weaned now. The ewes will recover on dry grazing and the lambs need a good diet. If you have mixed swards or clover in grass, you will find lambs will do well. If you have eaten all your aftermath, lambs will thrive on dry grazing and 500g/day of Harpers Lamb Finisher Nuts.

Suckler calves need ad lib Harpers 18% Calf Rearing Nuts in creep feeders now. They are still at an age when feed conversion will be at its best and when we get grass in the autumn, they will be able to benefit from it.

Hopefully this grazing shortage will be short term and with the values of finishing stock holding up, feeding finishing stock well now will ensure your cattle come fit to be marketed when you need them to go.

For more information, talk to your Feed Specialist.



Bill Harper
Director
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CHOOSE MILK REPLACER CAREFULLY FOR BEST RESULTS

There is significant variation in calf milk replacer (CMR) specifications available in the market and interpreting and comparing products can be challenging. The calf rearing period offers a unique opportunity to exploit the animal's genetic potential setting solid foundations for the future performance of your herd in the first few weeks of life.

Take care when deciding on the type of CMR. Working with your nutritionist, calf specialist and/or vet will ensure all information can be collected to make the best decision.

A few key areas should be considered during discussions:

Quality of raw materials and ingredients

There can be significant variability in the quality of raw materials used in CMR. Working with a reputable supplier ensures that raw materials are carefully sourced, that processing technologies have been carefully controlled which ensures high quality nutrient specifications. This will lead to a digestible and consistent product for your calves, which in turn will support performance and health.

During times of volatility some suppliers may look to achieve a cost saving, for example by increasing the inclusion of vegetable sources which are less digestible than dairy products. Alternatively reducing or replacing skimmed milk or high specification whey products may occur, substituting an alternative, cheaper whey derivative or lower quality milk-based ingredients.

If we are changing the nutrient makeup of the CMR we are feeding it is important to be mindful of the considerations around practical feeding. Changing specifications or formulations may affect solubility and physicality of the mixed milk as well as impacting the osmolality – a key risk factor for calf scour.

Mixing quality and physical considerations

A good quality milk replacer should dissolve and mix in warm water. Recommendations that use higher water temperatures should be carefully considered as high temperatures can denature the protein sources and affect the overall digestibility and nutrient availability to the calf. Check buckets and feeding equipment for sediment – sediment could indicate wasted nutrients that are not being consumed by the calf.

Palatability and intakes

Ensuring adequate intakes during the first few weeks of life is essential to start to build a resilient and robust young calf. Feed as close to adlib as possible in early life to maximise feed efficiency. Achieving intakes in the young calf relies heavily on a palatable CMR that calves are keen to consume. Palatability can be closely linked to the quality of raw materials and ingredients.

Calf performance and health

Measuring growth rates remains an important metric when rearing calves, however we also need to consider optimal development, resilience to disease and longevity as they allow us to take calf rearing to the next level. Monitoring KPI's around health incidences and treatment rates can provide additional information to help improve performance.

LifeStart Science research by Trouw Nutrition has shown that elevating the plane of nutrition pre-weaning not only leads to higher calf growth rates and improved heifer performance. In addition, the latest research demonstrates clear long-term benefits on fertility, survivability and lactation performance providing a clear return on investment. For these reasons, choosing the best possible milk replacer is a key decision that can influence success.

LIFESTART
SETS LIFE PERFORMANCE

For more information, speak to your Feed Specialist.

Keith Callender
Feed Specialist
07880 406 213

AVOID COSTLY MAIZE LOSSES THIS AUTUMN

Maize can be a challenging silage to manage as it's particularly susceptible to aerobic spoilage. Maintaining quality through to feed-out is vital to maximise its potential in the ration.

Maize is going to be particularly valuable this winter with purchased feed costs remaining high. Taking steps to maximise quality and minimise dry matter losses between the field and feed-out will pay dividends.

Using a maize specific inoculant at ensiling is a crucial part of the process. Maize can be more difficult to compact, meaning there's more potential for residual oxygen in the clamp. This in turn means the yeasts which cause heating stay active for longer at the start of the fermentation process. When the clamp is opened, oxygen will also penetrate faster, reactivating the yeasts, leading to aerobic spoilage and waste.

Magniva Platinum Maize contains a combination of heterofermentative bacterial strains L. *hilgardii* and L.*buchneri* unique to Lalllemand Animal Nutrition, which deliver many benefits:

- More silage to feed due to lower dry matter losses
- Less heating in the clamp and so a higher energy content
- Reduced contamination with yeasts and moulds
- A rapid fermentation, for feeding safely in as little as 15 days.

For more information speak to your Feed Specialist.

Louise Hosegood
Feed Specialist
07702 874 763

PREPARING EWES FOR TUPPING

Pre-tupping preparation of both rams and ewes is key to ensuring a high scanning percentage, and that flock profitability is not compromised from the start.

One of the main things to consider for ewes is body condition score (BCS). If ewes go into tupping too lean or too fat, this will influence the success of their pregnancy and even effect the resulting lamb's performance.

At the start of tupping lowland ewes should be a BCS of 3.5, and upland ewes 2.5-3.0. To achieve this, ewes need to be managed and perhaps split into lean, fit and fat groups. Lean ewes should have access to the highest quality grazing and supplemented with concentrates or forage if necessary. It can take 6-8weeks to lift a condition score, so planning is vital.

Get lambs weaned

Weaning of this year's lamb crop at the correct time is crucial to allow ewes to recover BCS. By 12 weeks old, lambs are not reliant on the ewe as the contribution of milk is very small in the diet. The competition for grass alongside stocking rate will result in lambs and ewes benefiting from being weaned.

After weaning it is important to identify those ewes that are fit for re-breeding and not limited by poor health. Check teeth and udders and ensure feet are sound. Mark or sell culls.

Any stressful treatments such as dipping or foot treatment need to be completed well in advance of tupping. Stress after mating increases loss of embryos through foetal reabsorption in early pregnancy.

Check minerals

Blood sampling of ewes in advance of tupping should be used to check the flock's trace element status. Trace elements play an integral role in fertility. Selenium, in particular, is important for good conception rates. Blood test results may indicate mineral supplementation is required. Administering a multi-vitamin drench containing cobalt and selenium to all ewes 4-6 weeks before tupping will also help reduce the likelihood of disease risks caused by trace element deficiencies.

Don't forget the rams as they have a key part to play. Rams should have a body condition score of 3.5 to 4 at tupping. It is vital to ensure good nutrition and care for at least two months prior to this, as this is when sperm maturation takes place.

Also don't forgot the 5Ts:

Toes - Check locomotion, legs and feet

Teeth - Check for under or overshot jaw, gaps and molar abscesses

Testicles - Measure and check firmness (like a flexed bicep) with no lumps or bumps

Tone - Aim for body condition between 3.5–4.0 (spine well covered)

Treat - Check vaccinations are up to date (clostridia, pasteurella, parasites, lameness)

Please speak to your Feed Specialist to discuss how we can help to get the best from your system/flock.

Matt Dymond
Ruminant Feed Specialist
07880 406 212

SPECIAL OFFER ON GRASS SEEDS

Throughout August buy 10 bags of Monarch or Equipaddock grass seeds and get 1 bag free at Harpers Farm Supplies (while stocks last).

For more information, speak to Elliot Pomeroy on 01409 259 600

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We will be attending the following shows and events in the next few months and look forward to welcoming you to the stand.

Event	Date	Location
Dunster Show	Fri 19th August	Dunster Castle Lawns
Holsworthy Show	Thurs 25th August	Killatree Cross, EX22 6LP
Holsworthy Golf Day	Fri 2nd September	Holsworthy Golf Club, EX22 6LP. Register your interest on 01409 254 300
UK Dairy Day	Wed 14th September	International Centre, Telford, TF3 4 JH
Maize Clinic Days	Wed 14th and Thurs 15th September	Harpers Farm Supplies

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