

# ALL THINGS MOLASSES newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of United Molasses GB's newsletter where we look at the feeding challenges of grazing based diets this summer and how molasses can help to combat them, we are also excited to talk about a recent collaboration we have done with Kemira Europe with their Myco Curb mould inhibitor plus much more!

## ON FARM FOCUS

### Grazing diet challenges await this summer and molasses can help you to tackle them!

By Mark Few UMGB Product Manager and Richard Colley, Farm Consultant at Colley Beef Agri

**The cold and wet spring has meant a late turnout for most farms, however cattle are now finally out to pasture but only as we start into summer.**


The switch to grazing based diets will present some feeding challenges though as we have seen variation in both grass growth and quality in the spring and a trend of lower than ideal sugars recorded through the last couple of months (see table A). "Areas that have had colder weather and less sunlight will see lower sugars as their production in grass will have been inhibited while regions that have had high rainfall will likely have higher lignin levels where despite potentially good growth the stress levels on the grass will have been significant enough for more lignin to have grown" states Richard Colley, farm consultant at Colley Beef Agri. "Basis the amount of rainfall in some regions I would expect some high lignin levels where the wet spring weather had taken its toll on the condition of the grass" continues Richard.

**TABLE A - Summary of Grass Check UK dairy farm average grass growth and quality results**

	Units	Date 15/04/24	Date 29/04/24	Date 20/05/24
Grass Growth	Kg DM/ha/day	52.5	47	91.7
Dry Matter	%	18	18.8	18.5
Sugars	% DM	9.2	10.3	8.7
ME	MJ kg/DM	11.2	11.2	11.1
Crude Protein	% DM	20.6	18.7	18.1

Source ADHB

The most common feeding strategy on dairy farms during the grazing months is to supplement in a buffer feed to cows before afternoon milking in order to maximise their daily forage consumption on top of grass to prevent a fall off in cattle's fresh intakes during the day. "As a rule of thumb a cow consumes 1kg of grazing dry matter in an hour against 1 kg of a buffer feed which it will consume within 45 minutes hence you get an intake boost" says Richard. A buffer feed can also help to nutritionally balance cattle's daily diets so are very adaptable for feeding with variable grass and silage quality especially in terms of sugars and fibre/lignin levels.



### MOLASSES TANK SCHEME

The United Molasses tank scheme can help in the purchase of a new tank by offering a flexible mode of payment with no interest to pay for up to 36 months!

- No lump sum payment so the cost is spread
- No interest to pay
- Safe and easy way to handle bulk liquids on farm
- Solves potential farm storage issues

**TO FIND OUT MORE:**  
call us on 0151 955 4850 now.



## continued...

High NDF and lignin levels means slower digestion through the rumen resulting in lower dry matter intakes and potential drop offs in milk yields. “To balance high lignin nutritionally you need a good source of rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (RFCs) in the form of sugars to help break down this forage” adds Richard. Molasses is an ideal ingredient to add sugars to a buffer feed as it is a sugar bi-product and is rich in RFCs which will break down in the rumen within 2 hours after feeding and drive volatile fatty acid (VFA) production in the rumen to breakdown the more fibrous and lignified grass and grass silage quicker. “You need ideally between 5 to 7% sugars in a balanced dairy diet for good rumen function and with forage high in lignin this is pretty much essential and can be easily achieved by adding just 0.5kg of molasses!” continues Richard.

In order to demonstrate the effect of adding 0.5kg of molasses to a typical Dairy buffer diet providing a 10 litre milk yield from DyNE, Richard compared a diet with no molasses to a Grass Silage/Straw based diet incorporating 0.5 kg per head per day of United Molasses GB’s **Caneflow** liquid (see Table B).

**TABLE B:**  
Simple Buffer feed Grass Silage/Straw mix for 10 litre milk yield target

Diet Data	Non Molasses Diet	0.5 kg Caneflow
Ration DM %	40	41
Dry Matter Intake (kgs)	4.82	4.92
Sugars (% DM)	1.95	6.48
Starch (% DM)	20.81	17.22
Milk Yield DyNE	10	10

“Adding **Caneflow** molasses to the diet meant we could reach the desired target level of 5 to 7% for optimal rumen function, plus you have the known molasses driven improvement of physical intakes so the actual milk yield should be better than on paper!” comments Richard.

To conclude a molasses product such as United Molasses GB’s **Caneflow** is a great way to add sugars to dairy diets this summer to help balance out rations where grass quality is either low in Sugars/RFCs or high in NDF/lignin to help promote better rumen function through increasing VFA production and breaking down forage quicker in the rumen.

“Early grass silage results are also suggesting lower than ideal crude protein levels so for farms looking to also boost the protein in their diets they can look at alternative molasses based liquids that can supply a combination of both sugars and protein such as **Nutrimol** or **Nutrimaize 46**” comments Richard.

Molasses liquids are easy to incorporate in a buffer feed TMR and inclusion levels can be easily changed to help nutritionally balance diets through the summer feeding season.

For more information about **Caneflow**, **Nutrimol**, **Nutrimaize 46** or any other product in United Molasses GB’s extensive range of liquid products please contact us on **0151 955 4850** or visit **www.unitedmolasses.com**.

All diet data produced using Ultramix by AGM systems

## Early thoughts on next winter’s feeding plans

By David Mills, UMGB Commercial Manager

**With an increase in maize acreages planted across many regions, next winters feeding plans may well need some careful consideration in terms of a synchronized supply of rumen degradable protein in the diet.**

Starch from forage maize is a much more slowly degradable form of fermentable energy, it is therefore important to supply a sustained amount of rumen degradable protein in the form of Non protein nitrogen (NPN). Through a unique bonding process of sugar cane molasses and urea, United Molasses GB produce sugar-ureides as the key ingredient for the regulated release protein effect of our Nutrimaize blends.

To highlight the benefit of the sugar-ureides we did trials with Bioparametrics Feed and Forage Analytical services, these showed that within 5 hours of supply 90% of the Nitrogen in feed grade Urea was consumed, in comparison to only 35% when Urea is fed in Nutrimaize 46 one of the flagship products in our Nutrimaize range. This means much more rumen degradable protein is available over a longer sustained period to the cow ensuring a synchronized supply of quickly and slowly degradable protein alongside the fermentable energy coming from the Maize silage. Our Nutrimaize liquids are also a very safe and effective way of feeding Urea in TMR diets and the molasses sugar factor will increase forage intakes and should improve milk quality.

**For more information on any of our Nutrimaize range of liquids please give me a call on 07890 055729.**

## Molasses + Myco Curb can help with the challenge of preserving your summer TMR

By Mark Few, UMGB Product Manager

**A common feeding challenge during warmer months is maintaining the quality of a forage based total mixed ration (TMR) when it is put out for feeding and left for up to 24 hours.**

The risk of aerobic spoilage arises when silage is exposed to air, triggering a secondary fermentation process that can rapidly promote microbial growth. This will lead to a deterioration in the forage quality nutritionally and likely produce an odour to the TMR, both of which can lead directly to reduced intakes, feed wastage and ultimately a drop in animal performance.

In an applied research collaboration between United Molasses Group and Kemin Europa N.V. we looked at the effect of adding a Molasses liquid plus the mould inhibitor Myco Curb ES to a forage based TMR. The trial work showed a positive response effect on reducing the total mould count of a UK origin 50:50 Grass and Maize Silage based TMR over a 24 hour period at an elevated temperature of 30oC. The results that we found clearly indicated that adding the synergistic blend of molasses + Myco Curb ES will slow down the effects of the secondary fermentation reaction and subsequent mould growth in the silage which will help to maintain the nutritional and physical quality of the TMR even when it is warm!

By maintaining the quality of the silage in the TMR it will help to maintain animal performance in terms of milk yields and daily live weight gain. Kemin's Myco Curb ES can be added to all of UMGB's farm liquids at addition rates of 5kg and 10kg and we believe is the ideal TMR additive solution for once a day feeding this summer to help protect your forage quality!

**For more information about Molasses + Myco Curb please contact us on 0151 955 4850.**



## GB TEAM UPDATE The Great Molasses Challenge!

**The UM Great Molasses Challenge fundraiser has now been completed and we are happy to announce we have smashed our mileage target of 4,820 miles, along with our colleagues across the UM group we have managed to cover through walking, running, cycling and swimming a whopping 12,330 miles! .**

The GB team have really enjoyed taking part in this challenge over the last couple of months with particular mentions to Judie Ko for cycling and walking over 800 miles and to Simon Markham for taking part in both the London and Edinburgh marathons in addition to the Bristol half marathon. The UM Group as a whole has so far raised over £30K from the challenge for the wonderful charity Farm Africa with all proceeds going towards their mission to empower farmers in Africa to grow more, sell more and protect the environment.

**Thank you to everyone who has sponsored us for the challenge your contributions have been greatly appreciated.**

