

ALL THINGS MOLASSES newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of United Molasses GB's All Things Molasses newsletter where we take a close look at the 2nd cut grass silage results and how molasses can help get the best from this forage, we also look at the role of molasses in straw based diets to youngstock.

ON FARM FOCUS

The 2nd cut results are in and it's all about increasing dry matter intakes which is what molasses is all about!

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

Trouw nutrition have released their 2nd cut grass silage results and we are seeing lower dry matters than last years results with an average of 34.7% which is down from 36.7% in 2023.

Trouw nutrition commented on the results that the low dry matter means farms will need on average nearly 400kg of extra forage intake daily for a 200 cow dairy herd so the importance of managing stocks and maximizing home produced intakes will be critical. Despite lower lignin levels than last year's second cut it is still high and the fibre index is actually up so there will be a need to add rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (RFCs) to ensure good digestion of this silage in the rumen. When we look closer at the overall 2024 results while the Total fermentable carbohydrates (TFCs) has risen from this years 1st cut results the level of RFCs is actually down meaning more slowly fermentable carbohydrates (SFCs) are present. "Too many SFCs in the rumen will put pressure on microbial protein yield which in combination with the high fibre means adding an RFC such as sugar will be vital for good production from this 2nd cut grass silage" comments Richard Colley at Colley Beef Agri.

So two of the key feeding challenges of this 2nd cut Grass silage results are increasing DM intakes and adding RFCs which means adding molasses fits the bill perfectly as it improves palatability and it is full of sugars the best source of RFCs for ruminant diets. Molasses products are proven for improving both the presentation and palatability of a silage based TMR leading directly to increased DM intakes and less waste in the clamp. Trouw nutrition suggests that even a 2% drop in DMI could result in a 6.6 MJ/day energy deficiency leading to 1.3 litres of milk loss per cow per day or £88.40 per cow over a 200 day winter which is why adding Molasses makes great sense with this silage. In terms of sugars, molasses is the highest concentrate feed of both sugars and RFC's available to the rumen which are essential for optimising rumen function especially when feeding high dry matter silages which are especially high in NDF like we are seeing in the results for this crop.

COMING SOON...

Following the success of our recent Reasons to Feed Molasses A4 flyer series we are pleased to announce we will shortly be launching our 5th entry to this series which will be focused on why molasses is a great feed for sheep.

These reasons include:-

- **Increase daily Dry Matter Intakes**
- **Adds energy to maximise and maintain body condition**
- **Low substitution effect feed which is critical with limited intake volumes**
- **Versatile handling and application to either grass or silage based diets**

Follow us on X and linked in for updates on this flyer that is coming soon!



continued...

Another feeding strategy for farms this winter with grass silage will be to feed with other forages such as maize silage or wholecrop where molasses can help to mix these feeds together and boost palatability. “High dry matter forages combined with higher NDF complementary feed’s will usually lead to lower voluntary forage intakes and take longer to be degraded by microbes in the rumen so as a rule of thumb intakes can be lifted in Partial or TMR diets by a factor of 1.2-1.3 by feeding mixed forages with molasses based products” continues Richard.

United Molasses GB offer an extensive range of molasses and molasses based farm liquids suitable for all types of ruminant diets. For more information about the extensive range of molasses products that United Molasses GB offer please call us on 0151 955 4850 or visit www.unitedmolasses.com

Thinking of heifer rearing on straw? Molasses can make it work!

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

If silage stocks are looking tight on farms this winter then feeding some straw in diets for youngstock such as Holstein heifers will be an attractive option especially as wheat straw prices currently look very reasonable.

However feeding straw presents challenges as you will need to add crude protein to balance this forage nutritionally and also you need to consider straw’s inherent lack of palatability. With in calf heifers you also need to consider body condition as they have a target weight gain of between 0.75 to 0.8 kg per day between the ages of 16 to 22 months, with the main feeding challenge being to keep them maintaining this desired growth rate without putting too much excess condition on so good intakes are key. We believe the best way to feed straw to heifers is with a molasses liquid with added protein so your livestock gets the dual benefit of the right nutrients to balance their diet and the palatability improvement you get with molasses which leads to better Dry Matter intakes. We recommend products such as our **Nutrimol Extra** and **Nutrimaize Sweet** that are blends of sugar cane molasses and our bonded urea so provide the benefits of a more regulated release of protein and sugars to the rumen in addition to providing the required nutritional balancing and intake boost for a straw based TMR for youngstock. To demonstrate the benefit of adding Nutrimol Extra, Richard compared 3 in calf heifer diets being fed a 92% Dry matter Wheat Straw based diet with a 20% protein Compound product, a 20% protein Blend and finally a combination of a 16% protein blend and United Molasses’s Nutrimol Extra farm liquid (see Table 1).

TABLE 1 - Comparison of Straw based diets for in calf heifers (Age 16 to 22 months)

Feed	Units	Diet 1 – Straw + 20% compound	Diet 2 – Straw + 20% blend	Diet 3 – Straw + 16% blend + Nutrimol Extra
Wheat Straw				
2.5/3 inch chopped	Kg per day	5.5	5.5	5.5
Compound 20% CP	Kg per day	6.5		
Blend 20% CP	Kg per day		6.5	
Blend 16% CP	Kg per day			5.5
Nutrimol Extra	Kg per day			1.5
Minerals youngstock	g per day		100	100
Nutrients				
Dry Matter Intake	Kg	10.58	10.58	10.75
Sugars (target 5-7%)	% DM	2.06	2.06	6.52
Crude Protein	% DM	14.54	14.54	14.9
Predicted Performance				
Predicted LWG	Kg per day	.81	.81	.81
Cost per day	£	2.74	2.55	2.54

All diet data produced using Ultramix by AGM systems * Basis October 2024 feed prices

GB TEAM NEWS



Our very own Simon Markham was back on the fundraiser trail in October when he took part in a 60 mile non-stop walk from Blackpool tower to the Christie hospital in Manchester helping to raise over £15K for the Christie charity.

The walk was done in memory of the late mum of our customer Mark Dutton. Well done to Simon, Mark and everyone that took part in this amazing event!

“Comparing these 3 diets, I found a positive saving in daily feeding costs with the ration including the Nutrimol Extra. However for me the biggest benefits of including molasses is raising the sugar level and improving the Dry matter intake as both of these are essential when feeding straw to any cattle, young or old” notes Richard.

For more information about Nutrimol Extra or Nutrimaize Sweet please call us on 0151 955 4850 or visit www.unitedmolasses.com