

# ALL THINGS MOLASSES newsletter

Welcome to the September edition of our All Things Molasses newsletter where we look at the how molasses liquids can help to get the best from grass silage at different qualities this winter, we also give an update on the current molasses market and provide an update on our Great Molasses Challenge fundraiser.

## ON FARM FOCUS

**Different feeding challenges await this winter but the one constant should be molasses liquids and their versatility in getting the best out of any forage!**

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

**This past winter and spring we have seen relatively mild weather and high rainfall in most regions, this has led to first cuts being very dependent on how wet the ground has been with some farms significantly delayed and unable to start cutting grass leading to delayed turnout.**

Trouw Nutrition reported that the optimal time for first cuts this year was Mid-April to the first week of May but due to the prolonged wet conditions and subsequent delays in application of slurry and fertiliser this has delayed many first cuts until the middle of May which has had big implications on quality. These implications on quality are best observed when we look at the ranges reported by Trouw Nutrition for some of the key quality parameters in the first 500 samples of early 1st cut grass silage they have analysed this year (see Table A).

TABLE A - Trouw Nutrition early 1st cut grass silage results range 2024

2024 - Early 1st	Units	Min	Average	Max
Dry Matter	%	16.7	<b>33.7</b>	55.9
Protein	% DM	8.1	<b>14.4</b>	20.9
D Value	%	57	<b>68.6</b>	76.1
ME	MJ kg/DM	9.1	<b>11</b>	12.2
NDF	% DM	33	<b>46.7</b>	63.5
Structural Fibre Index	g/kg DM	128	<b>187</b>	252
Lignin	g/kg DM	19	<b>38.4</b>	65
Sugars	% DM	0.2	<b>1.7</b>	9.6
Structural Fibre Index	g/kg DM	47.9	<b>88</b>	133.9
Lignin	g/kg DM	111.6	<b>190.9</b>	251.6

Ref: Trouw Nutrition Laboratory GB 2024



### MOLASSES MARKET IN BRIEF

- Molasses market is seeing less variation between Q4 and Q1 than we would typically see between old and new crop molasses
- Primary driver is India has a lower sugar cane crop estimate than last year but a larger than typical stock carryover
- Tariff on Indian molasses exports remains in place post the elections
- Better availability of molasses supply from Central America on back of softer Ethanol demand
- Sea freights in the Red Sea area continue to be affected by political tensions, however improved situation in the Panama canal for Central American imports
- Stronger sterling exchange rates helping to improve the value of cane molasses

## continued...

**When we see this level of variance it means that farms will be dealing with different feeding challenges when they look at building either a PMR or TMR diet around grass silage as the primary forage.**

“These are some of the biggest differences we have seen in 1st cuts in terms of quality in years, I have farms within 20 miles of each other and the dry matters are +/- 20% different on a fresh weight basis in the clamp so the variable weather conditions have had very different impacts on these farms” comments Richard Colley from Colley Beef Agri.

The key challenges when looking at putting together PMR/TMR rations with less than ideal quality is to balance the diet nutritionally whilst maximising DM intakes so the farms are getting the most litres from their valuable home grown forage.

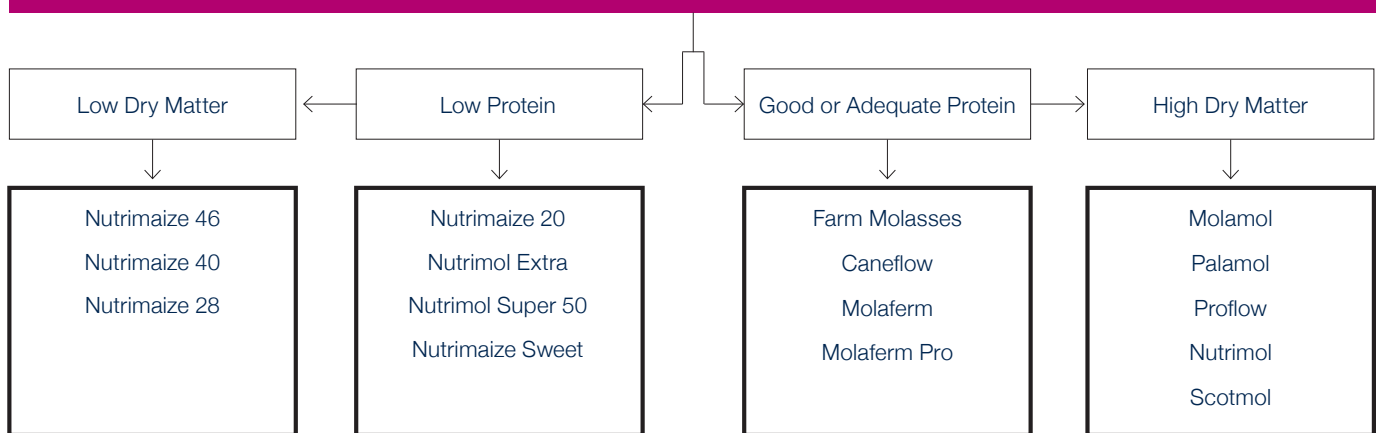
Molasses liquids are well known to improve intakes of all forage qualities as they enhance palatability and allow cattle to consume approx. 0.5kg more Dry Matter a day over dry feeds, they are also available with added protein at a variety of different specifications. In order to demonstrate the versatility of molasses blends with different forages, Richard has put together some basic flow charts showing how different products can best fit some of the different feed quality challenges focusing specifically on grass silage that is high in NDF, grass silage low in protein and grass silage low in Sugars/ Rapidly Fermentable Carbohydrates (RFC's) at different fresh Dry Matter levels. “Molasses will be a key feed ingredient this winter as it will consistently improve intakes whatever the quality challenge, the key will be to select the right product to get your nutrition balanced” states Richard.

## FEEDING CHALLENGES

**Due to the min/max variation of the key analysis parameters in the Trouw Nutrition results for the early 1st cut grass silages you could pick out several scenarios to focus on for a feeding challenge so Richard has picked out three of them in low Sugars/RFCs, low Protein and High NDF and put together flow charts to assist in finding the most suitable molasses product for them.**

### FEEDING CHALLENGE 1

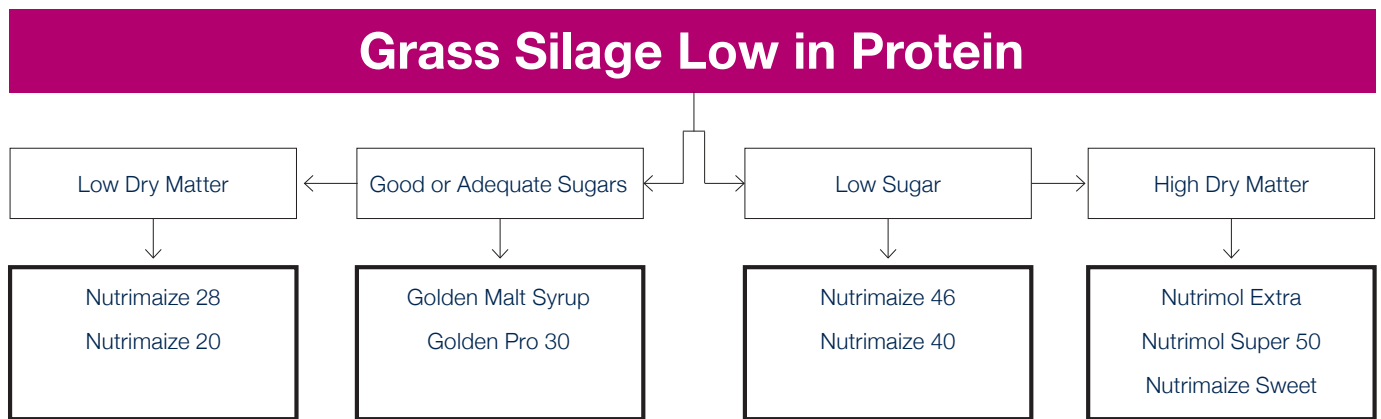
#### Grass Silage Low in Sugars and RFC's



#### RICHARDS COMMENTS:

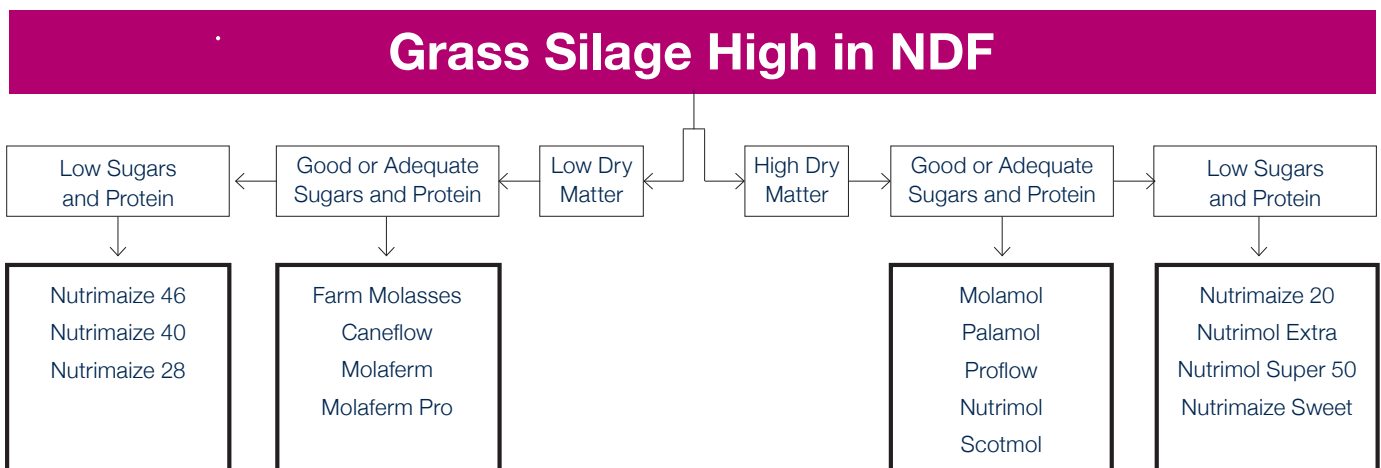
This year we are seeing a massive range in sugars from as little as 0.2 to 9.6 but the average is below 2% so sugars will be critical in balancing diets as a PMR/TMR needs between 5 to 6% for optimum rumen function. Adding a molasses liquid such as **Caneflow** is the most effective way to raise the sugar level in a ruminant diet while also allowing you to fine tune the RFCs for improved rumen function and better fibre digestion and United Molasses has liquids that will fit both high and low dry matter forage types.

## FEEDING CHALLENGE 2



**RICHARDS COMMENTS:** Typically protein is a low concern parameter with grass silage but this year's results range from 8.1 to 20.9% which means not all farms will be within the typical 13 to 15% range. United Molasses offers a range of protein liquids including the regulated release protein **Nutrimaize** range and alternative non Urea options like **Golden Malt Syrup** and **Golden Pro 30**. It is essential to make sure you are supplying enough fermentable protein for microbial synthesis to occur efficiently in the rumen for optimum function plus these protein liquids also contain sugars making them ideal for balancing PMR/TMRs.

## FEEDING CHALLENGE 3



**RICHARDS COMMENTS:** NDF is a measure of the total fibre in a forage, and like last year we are seeing high levels in the first cuts of grass silage. Too much NDF will slow down digestion, restrict intakes and reduce overall performance. The key to breaking down excess fibre in the rumen will be a good supply of RFCs through sugars which are broken down in the rumen in less than 2 hours after feeding and are a key driver in optimising milk production. Molasses liquids are the best source of sugars and the range of specs available from United Molasses mean you have a large range of options to select the best product to include in your PMR/TMR whether the Dry Matter is high or the protein is low!

**IN CONCLUSION** we are seeing a lot of variance in the early grass silage quality this winter so it will be key to add the right feed materials and additives to your PMR or TMR diet to get the nutrition correctly balanced. It will also be critical to ensure intakes are strong despite the less than ideal silage quality as turning home grown forage into litres of milk will always be a priority on farm. Like last year fibre levels will continue to be challenging in many 1st cut grass silage diets due to the over maturity of grass with late spring cutting so a good source of sugars and RFCs will also be essential to add into most diets. On this basis molasses liquids will tick the two most common need boxes on farm of improving intakes whilst supplying the sugars needed to optimise rumen function and due to the range of specs available from United Molasses you can find great versatility to help best fine tune these diets for this winter.

# PRODUCT UPDATE

## Nutrимаize Sweet

**We are excited to announce a new addition to our Nutrимаize product range for this winter – NUTRIMAIZE SWEET!**

Nutrимаize Sweet is made from a blend of molasses and molasses co-products with our signature bonded urea thus offering an economical and free flowing source of regulated release protein for diets this winter.

**For more information please call us on 0151 955 4850 or visit [www.unitedmolasses.com](http://www.unitedmolasses.com)**



# GB TEAM UPDATE

## The Great Molasses Challenge!

**UM GROUP RAISES OVER £33,000 TO SUPPORT VITAL WORK OF FARM AFRICA**

**Colleagues from across the UM Group came together this week to celebrate the end of a hugely successful Great Molasses Challenge.**

Our CEO Ben Macer revealed that, thanks to the remarkable efforts of colleagues £17,222 was raised via the Challenge's Just Giving pages with a further £16,222 being provided in match-funding by our holding company W&R Barnett making for a grand total of £33,444.

The Challenge was the flagship fundraiser of UM Group's Global Wellbeing Initiative in 2024.

Since the Challenge started towards the end of April, colleagues have been running, walking, playing football, cycling, rowing, swimming and going on dog walks, all with the aim of clocking up as many miles as possible.

Every single contribution, big or small, got us closer to our target distance of 4820 miles (7712km) which represents the distance of the first ever UM molasses shipment in 1912 from the Dominican Republic to Hull.

In fact, by the end of the Challenge, we had not only covered the distance of the first ever shipment, we had also done the distance back and a further halfway back again! The final mileage achieved was 12,468 miles (20,065km).

All money raised from the Challenge is going to Farm Africa, our chosen charity, which works tirelessly to reduce poverty by helping farmers in eastern Africa to grow more, sell more and sell for more.



Thanks to the work of the charity and its supporters, rural families are growing their incomes while also protecting their local environment for future generations.

Joining us to celebrate the success of the Challenge was Anissa Msallem, Head of Partnerships at Farm Africa, who told us: "It is amazing what you have all achieved over the last few weeks.

"To give you some idea, the money you have raised could fund a store house for vegetables grown by our farmers. Storing their produce is so important to ensure better quality, reduce waste, sell for more money which, in turn, increases the incomes of those farmers and gives them a better quality of life."

Ben told colleagues: "I just want to say a huge thank you to all colleagues who got involved in this remarkable Challenge. It was a truly incredible sum of money that was raised and then very generously match-funded by W&R Barnett.

UM Group is now committed to building on the momentum of the Challenge with a Wellbeing Month being held in September with a series of events, presentations and exercises planned.