

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 with high feed and fertilizer costs this summer and how a buffer feed containing molasses can help to get the best results from them, we are also excited to talk about the return of our Promaize product range and an update on our GB team.

ON FARM FOCUS

A molasses containing buffer feed can help you get the best results from grazing this summer

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

This summer is set to bring plenty of challenges to dairy farms with the effects of the Middle East conflict resulting in plenty of pressures to GB feed, fertiliser and fuel prices as farmers look to switch their focus to the grazing season and getting the most efficient utilisation and output from their all important home grown forage.

Simply grazing on grass as a lone feed ingredient will not meet a cow's basic daily nutritional requirements as it's quality will be too variable through the summer months, so for this reason the most recognised strategy is to typically add in a buffer feed to the herd's daily ration.

In addition to ensuring the cow's diet is nutritionally balanced adding a buffer feed also will help to ensure cow's maintain their daily intake which typically cannot be maintained from grazing alone as grass intakes will typically decline through the summer months. "As a rule of thumb 1kg of Dry Matter through grazing takes 1 hour to eat while 1kg of a buffer feed can be consumed in 45 minutes" comments Richard Colley at Colley Beef Agri.

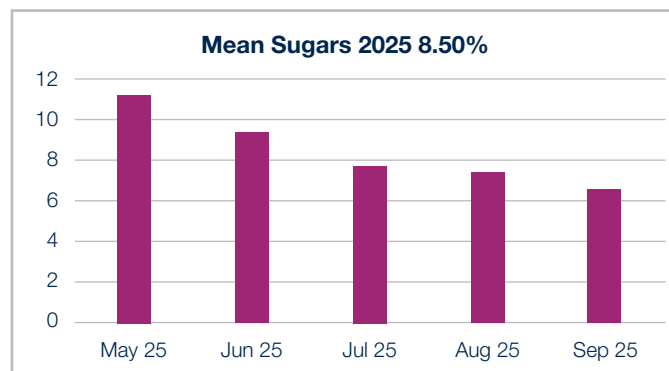


Buffer feeds are typically based on grass or maize silages with other complementary feeds such as molasses added to get the nutrient levels correctly balanced. One of the critical nutrients that will need to be added is rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (RFC's) which are essential to a good balanced diet and all molasses products have them in abundance in the form of sugars.

Typically the sugar levels will decline in grass as its quality gradually drops between the end of June to September (see Chart A) so maintaining sugar levels in dairy diets is really important to keep diets nutritionally balanced for good rumen function. Sugars are also really important to help break down fibre in the rumen and Trouw Nutrition GB have reported in their update on 10th April 2026 that Neutral Detergent Fibre (NDF) levels across Great Britain have been rising in grass reaching 38.56% DM following the recent warm weather spell which will likely lead to higher lignin levels also.

Adding a good source of RFCs such as sugars (sucrose) is a really effective strategy to tackle high fibre and lignin as they break down in the rumen less than 2 hours after feeding and drive volatile fatty acid production to get the rumen working quicker to help breakdown more fibrous and lignified forage.

Chart A Grass Sugar levels June - September 2025



Ref: Trouw Nutrition Laboratory GB 2025

continued...

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As mentioned earlier buffer feeds also help to improve intakes which molasses products are ideal for complementing due to their natural sweet properties and the fact as a liquid cattle can consume additional dry matter over dry feeds.

If dairy farms can maintain good intakes through the summer it will have benefits in terms of producing good milk yield and protein quality, maintaining body condition and promoting general health and fertility.

We believe adding 0.6kg of a molasses product like United Molasses GB's Caneflow to a buffer feed should raise the sugar level from 2% to 6% (on DM basis) and also improve the herd's dry matter intakes by approx 0.25kg per a day which should equate to an additional 1 litre of milk a cow per day.

"For good rumen function a balanced diet should have a minimum of 5% sugars in a buffer feed which is essential for ensuring sufficient energy supplies to support milk yields and maintain body condition and fertility through the summer season" adds Richard.

With the current rises in fertiliser, feed and fuel prices the need to get the most from the best value forage on farm will be critical for units to keep costs down and we believe a molasses containing buffer feed can really help to deliver the best results through supplementing quality fermentable energy into the diet to improve rumen efficiency whilst enhancing/maintaining dry matter intakes.

For more information about **Caneflow** products or any of UMGB's extensive range of molasses products please call us on 0151 955 4850 or visit unitedmolasses.com.

PRODUCT NEWS THE RETURN OF PROMAIZE FOR THIS SUMMER ONLY!

United Molasses GB is delighted to be able to announce the return of our Promaize liquid range for the summer.

The Promaize Extra and Promaize Sweet products offer a great source of non-urea dietary ERDP ideal for use in both Maize Silage and Wholecrop mixed forage diets. With rising Urea prices these products should offer a great alternative protein option to include in TMR diets. These liquids are easy to handle at all temperatures and contain our signature UM caramel flavour.

Available exclusively from our terminal in Bristol please contact us on 0151 955 4850 for more information.

*The Promaize products will be subject to availability at time of enquiry

GB TEAM UPDATE

James and Will join GB...

United Molasses GB are delighted to announce that two new members have recently joined our Liverpool based team in the last couple of months. Will Stackhouse has joined as Junior Commercial Manager and James Foley as Customer Support Administrator.



Will Stackhouse



James Foley

Will is from a farming background and is a recent graduate of Harper Adams University while also completing a Masters Degree at the University of Reading, specialising in agricultural economics. Will brings both commercial and supply chain experience to his new role at UM and will be helping us to further develop our farm market and identify new opportunities for the future.

James brings a wealth of experience and knowledge from working in the customer service and experience area and will be working closely alongside Felicity and Jess in our Liverpool based customer support team helping us deliver the best day to day service to our valued customers.