

ALL THINGS MOLASSES newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of United Molasses GB's All Things Molasses newsletter, in this edition we look at the benefits of adding a molasses product to diets using first cut grass silage this year and also introduce our new Molpro range of regulated release protein liquids.

ON FARM FOCUS

Just a spoonful of molasses sugars helps the fibre break down!

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

The 2025 first cut grass silage analysis results have been reported by Trouw Nutrition and show a declining trend in quality from last year. Key takeaways from these results include the Dry Matter and Rapidly Fermentable Carbohydrates (RFC's) being down and the fibre index being up from the 2024 results (see Table A).

Table A Trouw 1st cut grass silage analysis results

Feed	2024	2025	
Dry matter	33.69	33.22	↓
RFC's	193.87	188.73	↓
Fibre Index	186.65	190.52	↑
Lignin	38.41	39.56	↑

Ref: Trouw Laboratory GB

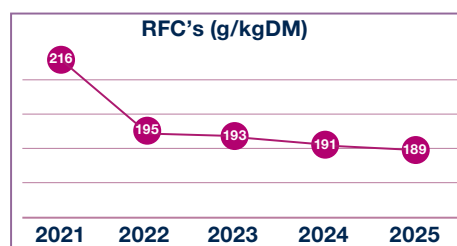
Trouw believe the primary reason for these differences was higher than typical grass growth in the winter meaning the grass was more mature when first cut in the spring.

“We are seeing a clear trend over the last few years with the early 1st cuts coming from more mature grass resulting in higher fibre and lignin levels which will be tough for the cow to break down in the rumen unless you have plenty of RFC's present in the diet”

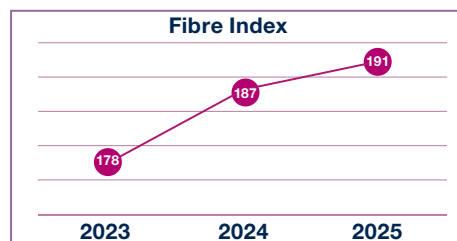
comments Richard Colley from Colley Beef Agri (see Charts B & C).

When fibre and lignin are high the fermentability of the silage will need to look at increasing the proportion of RFC's available to make sure there is enough energy to feed the rumen bugs and synchronize with nitrogen release.

Graph B



Graph C



The best source of RFC's are sugars (sucrose) as they break down in the rumen less than 2 hours after feeding and will drive volatile fatty acid production in the rumen to help breakdown more fibrous and lignified forage quicker and thus improve fermentation. Molasses products are recognised as the best source of sugars for ruminant diets and comes with the added benefits of improving palatability and Dry Matter intakes.

“For a balanced diet you need between 5 to 6% sugars but this years early 1st cut grass silage indications are less than 1.5%! Molasses products are the best source of sugars and will be essential to help farms get enough quality RFCs in grass silage based diets while also increasing palatability and intakes” adds Richard.

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The dry start to the summer will mean many farms could be facing tight silage stocks this winter however it will still remain the best value forage on farm so it will still be essential to get the most productivity from what you have especially with milk prices remaining strong in the UK.

To demonstrate how a molasses product can boost the sugars/RFC's in diets with this forage Richard ran 2 basic maintenance plus 25 litre diets based on the 2025 Trouw early 1st cut grass silage analysis, one with just straights and a second one with 1.1kg of United Molasses GB's Caneflow product added. As you can see from the results in table D the diet with the molasses product added raised the sugars from 2.32% to 5.07% on a DM basis.

“These results clearly show the impact adding just 1.1kg of Caneflow molasses can have in getting the diet’s sugars in the sweet spot so we get a quicker fermentation reaction and get all that fibre and lignin in the silage broken down faster to maintain good intakes” adds Richard.

Table D

Feed Material	Diet 1 Straights	Diet 2 Add Caneflow
Early 2025 Grass Silage Analysis (Trouw GB)	20kg	20kg
Maize Silage	20kg	20kg
Caustic Wheat	3.5kg	2.8kg
Soya HiPro	1.3kg	1.25kg
Rapeseed Meal	1.3kg	1.25kg
Dairy Minerals	100g	100g
Caneflow		1.1kg
ANALYSIS		
Sugars (% DM) Target 5-6%	2.32	5.07
Purchased Costs/Cow/Day (£)	1.43	1.58
Cost/Litre (pence)	5.72	6.32
Extra milk (litres) required above cost of straights for neutral cost (43.12ppl)		0.14
Projected milk gain (litres) from molasses via DM intake gain of approx. 1.1kg of Caneflow per day		1.2
Projected financial benefit from extra litres produced per day per cow (43.12ppl)		45.7p per cow

Ref: All diet data produced using Ultramix by AGM systems. Feed prices valid as of July 2025

Although adding molasses slightly increases the purchased in feed costs you should only need each cow to produce an additional 0.14 litres a day to cover this and we know that adding molasses should easily translate to over a 1 litre milk gain from additional dry matter intake so the potential financial benefit could be over 40 pence per cow each day!

Trouw Nutrition are also reporting in the early first cut results that protein and total fermentable protein levels are down from last year. This will mean rations may require supplementation with rumen degradable protein to better synchronize the supply of both energy and protein to the rumen and United Molasses GB offer a range of molasses bonded urea liquids with our innovative regulated release protein.

“Don’t sleep on including a value bonded urea blend like Molpro Super 50 this winter in your diets as it is rich in both rapidly fermentable carbohydrates and rapidly fermentable protein so will be perfect to balance these 1st cut grass silage qualities in a mixed forage diet leading to positive gains in both cow health and performance!” comments Richard.

To conclude, adding a molasses product to diets based on this winter’s Trouw Nutrition grass silage results will lift the sugar levels to the optimum range while also fine tuning the levels of RFC’s present to help improve rumen efficiency and ensure better fermentation of the high fibre levels reported which will lead to better milk production.

There also may be a need for rapidly fermentable protein to balance these early 1st cut silages results so an option of a molasses product with bonded Urea such as from United Molasses GB’s **Nutrимаize** or **Molpro** ranges could also fit really well. For farms reporting better sugar levels in their first cut silage results they should look at alternative lower sugar liquids such as United Molasses GB’s **Scotmol Pro** that will still provide the feeding benefits of improved palatability and intakes.

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing clarity and value to our customers, we have taken the decision to rebrand a selection of our current Nutrимаize range products under a new product range name:



This change reflects a clearer distinction within our overall product range. **Molpro** will now represent our value targeted regulated release protein range, offering dependable quality at competitive prices, while the **Nutrимаize** name will continue to represent our premium range of protein liquid solutions.

There is no change to the formulation or quality of the products being rebranded – only the name will be updated. This move helps us better align our product lines with the needs of our customers and allows for easier selection based on specific feeding goals and dietary requirements.

Previous ranges	Molpro range
Nutrimol Super 50	Molpro Super 50
UM Super Pro 40	Molpro Super Pro 40
Nutrimol Extra	Molpro Extra 35
Nutrимаize Sweet	Molpro Sweet 30