

June 2018

Issue 18



Tarff Valley Ltd

Trading Together, Growing Together, Since 1903

NEW! Rosette Range



The 'Rosette' range has been specially formulated using only the finest ingredients to offer the livestock producer a selection of premium quality blended feeds. Designed with pedigree cattle and sheep breeders in mind, the Rosette Range has all the attributes to enhance performance through the growing and finishing stages of show and sale preparation. The range entails a three-stage feeding regime for cattle and sheep. Please find more details below.

Rosette Cattle

Stage 1 – 18% protein starter feed designed for feeding to beef show calves. Textured mix incorporating flaked maize and peas to enhance palatability and encourage intakes. Starch and sugar incorporated to ensure a constant release of energy to condition the rumen, balance protein and drive growth.

Stage 2 – 16% protein blend formulated from pelleted ingredients making it ideal for trough or creep feeding at grass. Stage 2 delivers quality protein, starches and sugars in pelleted form, whilst also supplying top quality oils to maintain coat condition. A full inclusion of XP yeast has been added to boost performance and aid feed conversion efficiency.



Stage 3 – 13% protein conditioning mix formulated with show cattle in mind. Extremely energy dense to ensure fat deposition and bloom in the final stages of show or sale preparation. This stage utilises a broad spectrum of micronized feeds, as well as our 'Tarff Cereal Nuts' and rumen protected fat, to deliver consistency in product and performance.



Rosette Sheep

Stage 1 - Designed to grow tup hogs through the winter period. Highly palatable 19% protein blend formulated using primarily pelleted ingredients, including our 'Tarff Cereal Nut', to achieve optimal energy density to balance the high protein level.

Stage 2 - 16% protein rough mix designed for feeding to shearlings and gimmers over the main grazing period to maintain growth. This blend contains a combination of slow release energy sources from beet pulp, whole maize and oats to balance grass.

Stage 3 – 15% conditioning coarse mix formulated with high quality ingredients aimed to be fed 6 – 8 weeks pre-show or sale. Contains fish oils to promote fertility and aid bloom.

For more information regarding the blends, please speak to your local sales representative.

Secure Covers

After a long winter any reserves of forage are likely to have been used up. Your aim this season will undoubtedly be to rebuild stocks, taking an extra cut if there is available growth. Multiple cuts necessitate removing the sheet, and replacing all those tyres again, which is laborious and never a popular job.

Secure Covers have proved extremely successful as a way of making the job of covering the clamp quicker and easier. Once the cover is in place the gravel bags to hold it in place can be lifted onto a pallet and pulled into position.

Tyre use can be significantly reduced using **Secure Covers**, enabling degraded tyres, which are unsafe, to be discarded. Most prefer to switch exclusively to using gravel bags as they will flex to the contours of the surface making a better seal and reducing waste, particularly at the shoulders and along the sides.

Secure Covers also have the benefit of protecting the silage sheet from bird and wind damage; for the same reason many of our customers will use them to cover stacks of wrapped bales.

Last year, we sold enough **Secure Covers** to cover six acres of our trading area. With a 10-year UV guarantee it is proof that they work, saving you time and money.

Speak to your local sales representative for sizing & prices!

Woodfibre Bedding

Woodfibre bedding is ideal for all types of animals: equine, poultry, sheep/lambs, pig farming and beef farming.

This type of bedding is a cost-effective solution compared to sawdust, shavings and other options. As this product is recycled timber, it produces a natural warmth, meaning less energy being used by cattle during feeding to keep warm which helps keep weight on. Woodfibre dries out on top keeping dampness away from your animal, which in turn keeps your animals cleaner and doesn't stick to their coats making it helpful for showing cattle and easier to clip. As we all know, straw bedding requires a lot of time to muck out and leaves you with a large pile of waste. Woodfibre is much quicker to clear and reduces the size of your muck heap.

These are just some of the many benefits of woodfibre bedding. It's also an ideal product for all types of equestrian disciplines, rideable in winter conditions and it drains freely.

Pricing Structure*:

2018 Summer Special Price (June, July) – £30 per tonne
August to September – £37 per tonne
October 2018 – May 2019 – £45 per tonne.

Please speak to your local sales representative for more details. Order now to avoid disappointment! *Price subject to area.

Newsletter

Ayr Show

What a day we had at Ayr Show! Thank you to all those who dropped in for a chat and refreshment.

We were very excited to launch our brand-new 'Rosette' feed range, which has been designed with pedigree cattle and sheep breeders in mind. We held a prize draw competition to win half a tonne of feeding from the range and the winner was Steven Dunlop. Congratulations!

Scotsheep

This was our first time having a stand at NSA Scotsheep. Our stand was busy with many people enquiring about the new 'Rosette' Range. Overall, a great day and the sun was shining over Kings Arms Farm which was an excellent setting for the event.

Our next show is Stranraer Show, Wednesday 25th July. We look forward to seeing you there!



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Pioneer Inoculant Choices

Young Farmer Focus

We are delighted to be supporting Hazel Murray, a member of Lower Nithsdale Young Farmers Club, who is going on a Young Farmers exchange to Canada for three months.

Hazel has been chosen to represent the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs (SAYFC) and will be travelling around Ontario, staying with host families and 7 other international delegates from all over the world who have also been chosen to experience this trip.

Throughout their trip, the group will travel around farms and experience different farming approaches, visit diversification projects and get a feel for rural Canadian culture.

In the photo, Aishling from the Dumfries store is presenting Hazel with one of several goody bags filled with Scottish mementos for her host families to say thank you.

From all at Tarff, we wish Hazel a safe journey and hope she has a rewarding experience.



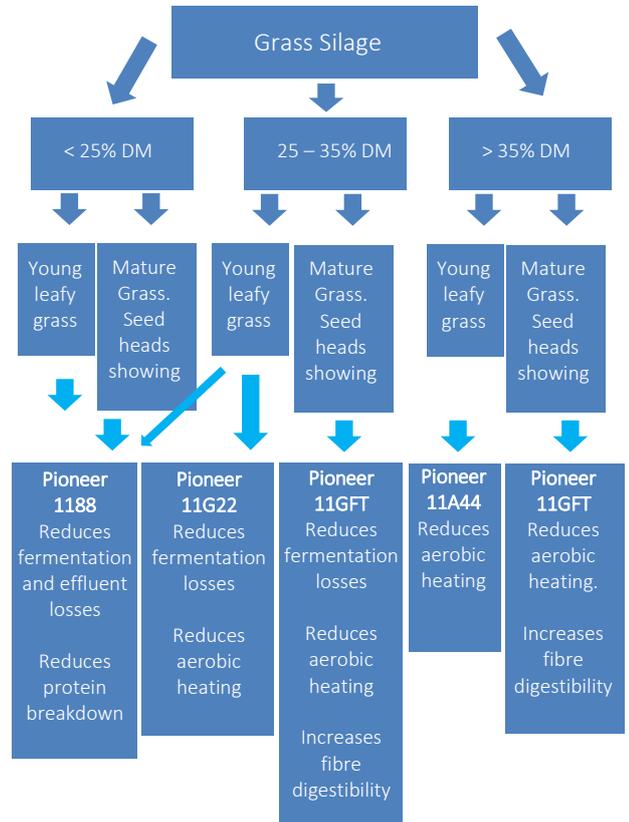
If you can get top quality first and second cut silage then the milk will flow; get it wrong and you face higher feed costs, poorer herd health and lower conception rates. Each season bring its own challenges and we have become accustomed to mild, wet winters, but this year most areas have seen hard frosts and some periods of snow cover.

High levels of rainfall in January meant poor ground conditions in many areas delayed applications of slurry and first applications of nitrogen. Where growers are bringing forward cutting dates in order to achieve better quality, care needs to be taken that the grass crop has sufficient time to utilise the nitrogen. The old adage of 2 units of N/ acre / day or 2.5 kgs N / ha / day still applies. Grass will only start to grow and be able to utilise nitrogen when soil temperatures consistently reach 5°C–6°C.

If slurry or manure applications were delayed due to soil conditions then extra care is required to avoid contaminating silage with the manure residues. This may require a delay in cutting or a higher cutting height. Manures carry the clostridial organisms that are one of the major causes of detrimental silage fermentation resulting in butyric silages with high dry matter losses and low intake characteristics.

Research has shown that following periods of low temperatures, the populations of bacteria on the grass crop are much reduced. If silage inoculants are not applied then growers are reliant on these naturally occurring populations of *Lactobacillus plantarum* to dominate the fermentation. If they are not present in large numbers then the chance of a clostridia fermentation increases.

Pioneer inoculant choices are featured on the right.



Different dry matters and stages of maturity create different challenges and so need inoculants that are tailored to the conditions. Lower dry matter grass needs an inoculant designed to drive the speed and efficiency of fermentation ie Pioneer 1188. Higher dry matter grass needs an inoculant designed to reduce the risk of heating ie Pioneer 11A44. Please be aware that very few inoculants can do both of the above. One exception would be Pioneer 11G22. Speak to our agronomists for more details.

Protect your Butterfat

So far, this season's butterfats have held up reasonably well but at the time of writing are starting to fall. Often the biggest drop occurs when cows graze pastures for the second time and all the grass is young regrowth.

What causes Butterfats to Drop?

Wet Grass	Highly Digestible Grass	Insufficient Physically Effective Fibre
Draff/grass high in unsaturated oils	Lack of grass	Heat stress reducing cow's appetites.

What can be done to protect Butterfat?

1. Buffer feed with some high fibre forage (if any left!). However, don't feed too much because the buffer will replace grass and high quantities of low digestibility crop will reduce the amount of milk produced from forage. Equally, if grazing is tight, make sure cows eat enough buffer to provide sufficient structural fibre for rumen function.

2. Avoid concentrates high in unsaturated oils such as maize distillers.

3. Feed concentrates high in quality HDF ingredients such as Soya Hulls, Sugar Beet and screened Palm Kernel.

4. Use a cake containing high level C16 fats such as ButterMax 16 which reliably improves butterfats every year.

5. Actisaf live yeast helps stabilise the rumen pH on grass containing a high level of sugar and other rapidly fermentable carbohydrate. This improves the efficiency of fibre digestion and can help butterfats. Buttergold 18 and ButterMax 16 cakes both contain Actisaf.

6. Consider using a rumen conditioner such as TechTonic which also improves forage digestion and rumen health, proven to lift milk yield and butterfat percentage. Buttergold 18 and Rumen Aid cakes all contain TechTonic.

Speak to your local sales representative regarding the range of compound feeds offered.

RSABI Southern Upland Way

10 members of staff joined RSABI Committee Members, Gregor Caldwell and Andrew Leggate on their 206.5 mile walk along the Southern Upland Way. The walk started at Portpatrick and finished at Cockburnspath. All staff members who took part thoroughly enjoyed themselves and their only complaint was sore feet! A full press release of the event will feature in the July newsletter. Keep your eyes peeled for this!