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Issue 27

# TARFF VALLEY LTD

Trading Together, Growing Together, Since 1903

## Newsletter

We are delighted to have renewed our subscription as a Business Sponsor of RSABI.

Why not consider joining the 'Individual Supporter Scheme'. You never know when the need for help or guidance may arise.



Tarff Town and Country has 25% off winter Weatherbeeta & Firefoot horse rugs. If you aren't able to visit the store, please phone the branch on 01387 261661 to check the sizes available and purchases can be sent out to you. (Please note: limited availability)



Seed Potatoes will be available soon from depots. £2.50 per 2kg.



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## Season Long Parasite Control in Cattle

### Why Season Long Control?

The key to ensuring that parasites are controlled is to make correct decisions on the type and timing of treatment. It is very important to know when parasites are going to impact your stock. This means regular monitoring and being able to handle and treat the animals at the point when parasites are appearing. This is almost impossible in the UK as every year is so different from a weather perspective. Additionally, as many farms have stock away from the home handling facilities, gathering and treating them appropriately takes additional time and money. Long acting products offer an opportunity to control worms and flies throughout the grazing season, with no need for additional costly handlings. It is not only the product choice and the time to treat that costs you money, recent studies have shown the impact on growth rate damages your profitability.

### How much can Season Long Control give me?

Season long control can give you reduced gathering, handling and treatment times in the summer. A recent on-farm study in the UK, involves 200 dairy and dairy cross cattle, half of which were treated once with FLECTRON tags at turnout and the other half treated three times during the season with an alpha-cypermethrin pour-on. Both groups were also dosed with the long-acting wormer CYDECTIN® 10% LA to remove any possible productivity impact from worms. Initial results over the six month grazing period showed cattle treated with FLECTRON® had better growth rates, weighing on average 12.2kg more compared to cattle treated with a pour-on. This represents a 7% improvement in growth rate equating to an additional return of £23.15 a head.

Labour saving from reduced handling was also significant, with an estimated cost saving of £9 a head or £900 for the 100 head of animals treated with FLECTRON. Combining all the benefits,

the additional value of using FLECTRON as part of season long control was £32 a head more than the pour-on group.

### What about worm resistance management?

For farmers concerned not to over-use the ML wormer group, which, for use in cattle, includes ivermectin, doramectin, eprinomectin and the highly potent moxidectin, alternating use of Autoworm™ one year and CYDECTIN® 10% the next is a valid strategy for season long control. Whatever options you have in mind, advanced planning is the way to maintain good animal health and maximise productivity from grassland.

### What are my options?



- CYDECTIN 10% Long Acting Injection for Cattle – provides the opportunity for immunity development during treatment. No concern about missed doses in the summer when the farming calendar intervenes, coupled with a season long satisfaction guarantee.



- Autoworm gives the opportunity to change the class of wormer on the farm as part of a resistance management protocol. There is no need to set stock and it affords the opportunity to develop immunity due to the pulsatile release of the bolus, combined with a season long satisfaction guarantee.



- FLECTRON not only acts as a repellent, but the active ingredient cypermethrin means that as the chemical on the flies is absorbed, they become hyperactive and die within minutes. There is no need to re-treat cattle once the tags are inserted and there is no milk or meat withdrawal.

## Would you like to become a mentor to a Pre-Apprenticeship?

*The aim of the Pre-Apprenticeship programme is to prepare young people for a career within the rural sector and offer a guided and supported learning programme. By having a well-structured, 26-week, fully paid placement, it gives young people the opportunity to sample different aspects of the industry and they can 'earn whilst they learn'.*

As a mentor, you will encourage development by 'doing and showing' ensuring effective transfer of knowledge. It's all about encouraging and supporting an individual to help them make the most of themselves, to prepare them for work and to set out clear guidelines as to how they should behave and perform at work.

By offering your knowledge, skills and guidance to a young person at the beginning of their career, you will have a lasting impact on the learner, setting the foundations for the rest of their life.

Throughout your time as a mentor, you will have continuous support and training provided. A representative from Tarff will visit and evaluate how the programme is working for you and your Pre-Apprentice.

If you're interested and would like to find out more, please phone the Ringford office on 01557 820247.

Introducing Debbie MacDougall to the Tarff Team!

Debbie has recently joined Tarff as a Sales Representative in Islay. Debbie previously worked in the hospitality industry and enjoyed working on a self-employed basis. With her ability to be her own boss, Debbie is well suited to take on this sales role on Islay. In her spare time, Debbie enjoys spending time with her sons. She's also a keen gardener and grows all her own vegetables. Debbie tells us that she is most looking forward to meeting customers, being faced with a new challenge and getting to grips with different aspects of farming.



Tarff is pleased to be one of the sponsors of the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) van for the Dumfries & Galloway Countryside Initiative (DGCI).

On Wednesday 20th February, Rod Sanderson and fellow local business sponsors were invited for the exclusive unveiling of the van with the graphics and sponsors artwork being showcased.



Photo courtesy of SRUC

## Make Best Use of Grass and Maximise Performance and Fertility

At Tarff, we want you to be successful. We recommend products that will help to boost your business. With turnout around the corner, supplementing grazed grass with Crystalyx Cattle Booster can significantly and economically improve animal performance – both for growing and breeding cattle, beef and dairy.

- +36% DLWG - Holstein heifers fed Cattle Booster gained 37kg more liveweight over the course of a 175-day grazing season (0.82kg/day) than control heifers on grass alone (0.60kg/day). Crystalyx intakes averaged 130g/heifer/day
- + 28% DLWG - In a late summer/autumn trial 11-month-old Holstein x Friesian heifers (240kg liveweight) fed Cattle Booster gained 0.81kg/day compared to control heifers gaining 0.63kg/day. Crystalyx intakes averaged 108g/heifer/day

These results are due to a more efficient rumen fermentation when Crystalyx is fed. Feeding Crystalyx stimulates the rumen bugs, increasing their numbers and making them work harder so they digest forages more effectively and efficiently. This helps improve overall diet digestibility and improves animal performance.

### Extending Forage And Feed Options Via Liquid Feed Solutions

Tarff continues to get new enquiries and orders from customers for molasses based liquid feeds. If you are not already using a molasses product, it's worth noting that Tarff can supply any sized volume from 1000 litres upwards for dairy, beef and sheep units, as well as liquid feeders and storage tanks. Both high energy and protein products are available as well as more specialist products such as molasses blends with vitamins and minerals. Additionally, magnesium chloride can be added to molasses blends to help prevent staggers at turnout.

The sugars within molasses allow the rumen micro flora to break down and utilise forage more effectively. Trials have shown an improvement of over 17% in forage feed conversion efficiency. Home grown forage will always be the most important building block within a ration, both in terms of quality and cost, and ultimately animal performance, so, it makes sense to fully utilise it.

For some farms, forage stocks for this winter continue to be a problem. If forage stocks are inadequate, or replacement hay and silage is too variable in quality and too expensive, it's worth considering using straw and a high protein liquid feed.

2kg of straw and 1kg of high protein liquid feed such as Regupro 50 will replace 10 kilos of silage at 25% dry matter. Another option for suckler cows and replacement stock is to feed a ration of ad lib straw and a high protein liquid feed with a small amount of blend pre-calving. This system is very cost effective. Due to the lack of forage produced last summer, a significant number of beef cattle and dairy youngstock have been successfully fed on this type of ration this winter.

Call Alex Hannah, Liquid & Moist Feeds Manager on 07818 455592 to discuss your requirements.

### What else can Crystalyx do?

- Holstein heifers were synchronised and AI'd whilst at grass, 92% of the heifers fed Crystalyx at grass were pregnant, compared with 80% of the control heifers.
- A large trial in New Zealand with 319 replacement dairy heifers split into 4 groups (2 control and 2 fed Crystalyx) showed a 95% pregnancy rate in the control heifers and a 100% pregnancy rate in both Crystalyx groups. In the NZ trial, the Crystalyx-fed heifers were also, on average, 4 days further in-calf, meaning they had been served earlier by the bull, suggesting an earlier and stronger oestrus when Crystalyx is fed.

Cattle Booster provides all the minerals, trace elements and vitamins needed to balance grass, which is essential for optimum animal performance and health.

For more information and to discuss this and other Crystalyx products please contact your local Tarff Feed specialist or go to <https://www.caltech-crystalyx.co.uk/>



### Pioneer P7326 – Gamechanger!

Growing a quality crop of forage maize in our area has always been a challenge. Cold springs, wet summers, lack of sunshine and late harvests have discouraged many farmers from attempting to grow this crop. Some growers have been disappointed with their yields and have seen little return on the considerable investment required to grow forage maize. However, with the judicious use of the SAMCO System, which employs the use of a biodegradable plastic film, and the correct variety of maize, the chance of a bumper crop is optimised.

In the past, early maturing varieties have carried a yield penalty. However, P7326 is a such an early maturing variety that a new category was invented for it - Extra Early. P7326 will yield as well as almost any other Hybrid variety and can be mature and ready to harvest during late summer. Maize silage is often considered a great feed for top yielding dairy cows. It is! But it is also a great feed for beef cows and finishing cattle. After all, the highest yielding, fastest growing cattle in the world are fed rations based on maize. Speak to Stair Brown or Rory Clark-Kennedy to find out how easy it is to grow this 'A-maiz-ing' crop.

### Lambing Dosing Preparations

Don't forget to speak to your local store's SQP about the dosing products for lambs which Tarff offers. It's important that your livestock is properly vaccinated to give them longevity of life and ensure the best start possible.