

TARFF VALLEY LTD

Trading Together, Growing Together, Since 1903

Newsletter

On Tuesday 10th September, Tracey McEwan and Katie Sproat took the Pre-Apprentices on a road trip to Yew Tree Dairy in Skelmersdale and Applied Component Technology Ltd (ACT) in Wrexham. It was a fair outing but a very interesting and insightful day!

As the majority of our Pre-Apprentices are on dairy farms, it was a great opportunity for the students to visit the Yew Tree factory and learn about the process after the milk is taken from the farm. Our sincere thanks to Carl Woodcock, Director of Yew Tree Dairy, for showing the group around the factory and explaining the process of bottling milk for the domestic market and drying milk into power for international export. It was an eye-opening visit and showed the group how extensive the dairy industry is. The visit was kindly organised by one of our mentors, Scott McGill, as his milk goes to Yew Tree Dairy.

In the afternoon, the group headed further south to ACT which supplies the automotive industry with interior components and was a chance for the students to see a different industry. The visit made the students aware of the variety of jobs there is in a factory and the processes carried out to create products which are then exported. Milburn Paterson, CEO of ACT, kindly took the Pre-Apprentices around each product station and demonstrated how each component is put together to create specific products. We are very thankful to him for the time he took out his day to host us.



Autumn is a tremendous time of year to kill weeds!

September and October are great months to tackle weeds in grassland such as docks, ragwort, thistles and nettles. Because silage crops are finished and the weeds are trying to re-grow and increase root development, it is easier for applied herbicides to translocate to the roots. Hence weeds die quicker.

Growing winter cereal crops is an effective way to clean up weedy fields. Autumn residual herbicides will not only allow the crop to get off to a great start but will also help control problem weeds such as Annual Meadowgrass, Chickweed, Fumitory, Bindweed, Knotgrass, Speedwell and Wild Oats.

Depending on the crop, the terrain, the timing and prevailing weather, we can select the perfect herbicide mix to suit your requirements. Please speak to the Tarff Agronomy team for further information.

Staff Member	Role & Phone Number
Stair Brown (Dumfries)	Seed and Crop Protection Manager, 07525 669174
Rory Clark Kennedy (Ayrshire)	Agronomist, 07384 259471
Calum McCall (Wigtownshire)	Agronomist, 07765 884985

Kenny joins the Tarff Team!

Kenny McDonald has joined Tarff as a Feed Sales Specialist in the Northumberland area. Kenny has over 30 years experience in the feed trade, having worked for many of the UK's leading feed manufacturers. His beef feeding experience/work has taken him as far afield as North Spain where he played an integral part in setting up feed ration programmes for some of the country's top feed lots. His interest in the pedigree feed market is keen and he is looking forward to promoting Tarff's "Rosette" Range. His extensive knowledge of the dairy calf, beef and sheep sector will be a great help to many clients this coming winter. Kenny is lead coach for the Alnwick U9's rugby team and is currently Vice Chairman of the Alnwick Junior teams. He's a keen golfer, game shooter and skiing fanatic. Kenny has lived in the Northumberland area for the past 23 years and feels that the farming clients he's served over that time will be very keen to learn much more about Tarff and how we can help their businesses grow in these challenging times. Please feel free to contact Kenny on his mobile at any time to discuss your farming needs (07766 505488).



Improving Grazing Performance on Autumn Grass – with Crystalyx

Fodder Beet can be a great winter feed for pregnant and growing stock as part of a balanced diet. Crystalyx Beet Balancer and Crystalyx Sheep Beet Balancer not only improve the digestibility of forages but are specifically formulated to correct the known deficiencies of Fodder Beet providing the missing vitamins, minerals and trace elements that stock require.

Things to consider if grazing Fodder Beet:

- Major and trace mineral levels are likely to be deficient for any stock when fodder beet comprises the majority of the diet. Fodder Beet is also low in Phosphorus, Magnesium and all the essential trace elements which Crystalyx Beet Balancers supplement.
- Fodder Beet diets are low in crude protein and very low in fibre, although Fodder Beet tops contain a high level of crude protein. However, excessive grazing of tops can lead to scouring and calcium deficiency symptoms even in pregnant stock.
- Estimating yield throughout the grazing period is essential to ensure the balance of energy and protein is maintained. Transitioning on and off the crop is essential. Fodder Beet bulbs contain high levels of sugar but are low in protein. They ferment quickly leading to acidosis if stock is not transitioned correctly.

Evidence from the last two winters shows mid-pregnancy ewes with milk fever symptoms, ewes coming off Fodder Beet pre-lambing in sub optimum body condition score, and dry cows losing condition compared to those being fed a balanced diet. However, using Crystalyx Beet Balancer or Crystalyx Sheep Beet Balancer can help counter these difficulties by ensuring that stock consuming a high fodder beet diet receive a balanced diet including a supplementary source of minerals in order to avoid poor performance.

All stock consuming a high fodder beet diet MUST be fed a balanced diet including a supplementary source of minerals to avoid poor performance. If you are interested in this product, please speak to your local sales representative.

NEW! Shooting/Countrywear

Tarff Town and Country store in Dumfries has introduced a new range of shooting accessories and countrywear. The newest brand is Jack Pyke, featured in the photo below. These versatile 300g microfleece gilets with nubuk trim are perfect for the changeable weather. Available in ladies and gents sizes, the range also offers children's gilets and shirts. Adult gilets are competitively priced at £25. To add to the Jack Pyke selection, there are gun slips, cleaning kits and cartridge bags and belts to name but a few! Visit the store to see the full collection!



Tarff Town and Country is hosting an Equine night on **Tuesday 24th September** starting at 7pm.

Guest speaker Mark Gwynn, from Zoetis, will discuss worming techniques and the importance of worming products. The talk will start at 7.30pm.

Industry experts will be on hand to answer any questions you may have and you can explore our new, exciting Autumn/Winter product ranges.

Special offers and refreshments will also be available on the night!

SUCCESS FOR SQPs!

Well done to Stephen Hunter from our Ringford branch for completing Level One of the Bimeda Sheep Scab Academy!



Congratulations to Andrew Sharp in our Castle Kennedy branch for recently completing the Silver Level of the Bimeda Nutrition Academy!



RSABI Great Glen Challenge

As many of you will have seen over the last few months in our newsletter and on our social media pages, we had two teams entered into this year's Great Glen Challenge on Friday 31st August. The challenge was not made easy with wind and rain causing problems! With slippery conditions, cycling frontrunner, Christopher Dey from TARFFTASTIC unfortunately skidded and fell, which resulted in a trip to A&E and 7 stitches in his leg where the pedal caught him! We wish Chris a speedy recovery! A special well done to Julia Graham who came 7th in the walking and Richard Jackson who came 5th in the kayaking challenge. Out the 26 teams who entered, this is a great achievement! Overall, TARFFTASTIC was placed 22nd and TEAMTARFF 24th. Huge congratulations to both teams for entering and putting in the effort and a massive thank you to everyone who has supported them! The amount raised is being finalised and will be announced in the next newsletter.



Managing Change for Dairy and Beef

August has felt more like autumn this year with many dairy cattle on heavy land now housed and, on some farms, strong stores have also come inside. Should weather conditions improve, there are considerable amounts of grass to be eaten off and if temperatures rise, cattle may be more comfortable outside.

Cattle are likely to continue experiencing much change over the next couple of months; beef calves being weaned as well as housed, dairy cattle eating varying quantities of grass and silages. Furthermore, the type and quality of forage can vary widely as stock move from round bales to clamp silage; from first cut to second cut or even straight on to freshly made third cut. Full silage clamps mean third and fourth cuts often have to be put in inconvenient places!

Actisaf live yeast is included in Carrs Billington dairy and beef diets and is perfect for helping cattle through these dietary changes and reducing their impact on rumen digestion.

Actisaf increases the growth of micro-organisms digesting both starch and fibre by reducing the oxygen content in the rumen. Removing this oxygen leads to an increase in propionate production leading to higher milk yields and growth rates. This extra performance comes from improved feed conversion efficiency, reducing the risk of acidosis and dietary upsets caused by changes in feed and management.

For more information on compound feeds which include Actisaf, please contact your local sales representative or phone the Ringford office on 01557 820247.

Meet our Pre-Apprentices!

Introducing OLIVIA SNEDDON

Why did you apply for the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme?

"I applied for the programme to get more experience in Agriculture and learn how the industry works. I've had previous experience on farms at weekends whilst being at school but I wanted to focus on learning the differences within farming enterprises i.e dairy, beef and sheep."



Since starting the programme, what have you learnt?

"Whilst at the Barony for the three-week induction, I learnt a variety of skills which I have taken into the workplace and put into practice. Productivity is key in this sector as you need to think quickly and complete all tasks to a high standard whilst thinking about the welfare of the animals."

What would you like to achieve from the programme?

"I would like to complete the Pre-Apprenticeship course and continue to study afterwards. I am already considering going back to the Barony and looking at undertaking a course in animal nutrition. I find the science behind animals very interesting."

Introducing JAMIE BAILLIE

Why did you apply for the Pre-Apprenticeship Programme?

"I applied to the programme to gain experience and enhance my knowledge of the agricultural sector. I have always had an interest in farming since I was a small child and I'm delighted to have been given this opportunity to explore this route for a future career."

Since starting the programme, what have you learnt?

"Since starting my placement, I have learnt the systems within the milking parlour and I've used the skills I learnt at the Barony e.g moving cows safely, operating all machinery by following set procedures and much more! There's a lot to take in but it's been really enjoyable so far."

What would you like to achieve from the programme?

"I would like to develop my role on my placement farm and hopefully gain full time employment or go into a Modern Apprenticeship in Specialist Dairy Farming. I'm excited to see how the next 6 months go and I'm looking forward to the next wee while and developing my skills and confidence."

We'll continue to introduce our Pre-Apprentices over the coming months. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for our Pre-Apprenticeship intake next year, please contact Tracey McEwan for more information (07785 657861 or tracey.mcewan@tarffvalley.co.uk).

