

TARFF newsletter

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Lynn Brierly has joined the Tarff team as Dundonald Store Manager. Lynn has worked in Agriculture for 7 years with a veterinary practice and other agricultural merchants. In her spare time, Lynn enjoys walking her two Border Collies, arts & crafts and spending time with friends and family. Lynn is looking forward to welcoming both existing and new customers to the store, learning about Tarff feeds and overseeing new and exciting ideas and products in the store.



Pictured below are John Cowan, Paul Johnstone (BPI), Lorne Kerr and Vicki Coleman (BPI) at the Royal Association of British Dairy Farming Gold Cup Day at Darnlaw farm on Thursday 5th August. It was an excellent day and great to be out and about seeing customers again!



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Take a closer look at molasses this Winter

Results from Trouw Nutrition GB show that this year's first cut grass silages have higher fibre and lignin contents, which makes the forage more difficult to digest. At the same time, they are lower in the rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (RFC) which are needed to feed the fibre digesting bacteria. This means diets will need careful balancing this winter with particular emphasis on rumen health to ensure maximum animal performance without risk to animal health.

The more fibrous forages this year can have a negative impact on dry matter intakes. Effective supplementation to optimise rumen function and increase fibre digestion will be necessary to get the most from these forages. But, with cereals at high prices and silages already having a high acid load and a low fibre index, the choice of energy sources will be important.

Molasses based liquid feeds are an excellent source of RFC, with research finding that sugars help to promote faster and more active rumen fermentation. This will encourage rumen throughput and so stimulate dry matter intakes. Sugars can also significantly improve fibre digestion making molasses blends an excellent and cost-effective choice in this winter's rations.

First cut silages are also analysing low in rumen fermentable proteins, which means nitrogen efficiency and protein sources will be important. Farmers should look at the opportunity to make increased use of molasses and molasses blends containing regulated release proteins as a cost-effective and efficient supplement to improve rumen health and forage utilisation.

New research at the University of Reading supported by ED&F Man shows the benefits of feeding Regumix, a 27% protein, 53% sugar molasses blend, on protein utilisation. The results found that as the proportion of Regumix was increased in the diet, fibre digestibility increased significantly, meaning cows were making better use of forages. Additionally, good rumen health was maintained, confirming that adding molasses does not increase acidosis risk, which is particularly important with high acid load forages.

The trial also found an increase in the efficiency of protein utilisation and a decrease in milk urea levels, showing that the regulated release protein in Regumix was effectively utilised by the cows.

It's important to note that a total switch from conventional protein to a high protein molasses blend is not recommended as this would compromise the total protein balance between rumen degradable protein (RDP) and bypass protein in the diet. But a partial replacement could go quite a way to reducing the impact of rising prices.

Call your local Tarff Sales Representative to discuss liquid feed options!

Exciting step forward for Tarff Services!

Tarff Services is pleased to announce the launch of its utility buying partnership with GO Low Carbon, a team of local energy consultants who offer access to cheaper, greener gas electricity.

GO Low Carbon have already had notable success in the Tarff Services trading area, including a significant 11% saving on a Dumfries based farmers electricity renewal.

In the last 12 months, GO Low Carbons customers saved over £680,000 thanks to their exclusive rates and avoided the hassle of trying to negotiate with energy suppliers. With rates changing daily and more than 25 suppliers offering 80 different tariffs, it's difficult to know what a good deal looks like.

As part of their no-obligation service, GO Low Carbon search the market before putting forward the most suitable and competitive tariffs for your needs, all without charge. Instead, Go Low Carbon take a commission from your chosen energy supplier should you wish to go ahead.

The whole process, from processing the contract paperwork on your behalf through to letting your current supplier know of the changes, is taken care of for you.

More and more pressure is being put on the farming industry to reduce our carbon footprint and questions are now being asked during farm assured audits. In particular we are aware that milk buyers such as Arla are encouraging suppliers to switch to green energy.

Through GO Low Carbon, we can ensure that your contract is sourcing its electricity from renewable sources and will meet any future requirement that your processor requires. Anyone switching to green energy also receives a unique 'carbon certificate' stating the reduction on your carbon footprint.

The message is not to wait until your current deal is about to expire but to start looking at your options now - even 12 months ahead if you want to avoid ever increasing energy prices!

If you are interested in finding out more, please call 01557 820247 or speak to our Services Coordinator, Tracey McEwan, on 07785 657861.

TARFF
SERVICES

FREE rodenticide training with BASF

As more farm assurance schemes are requiring proof of training, BASF is committed to educating the rural sector on the importance of effective pest management, and encouraging farmers to actively prevent infestations before the need for rodenticide bait arises to minimise the risks associated with rodents on farms.

Available to all farmers, the free one-day course covers the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) approved syllabus, including the necessary assessment, the cost of which will be subsidised with an equal amount of rodenticide to those who pass the assessment.

We are planning a training day soon so keep your eyes peeled for more information!

Rumevite 'High Energy + Protein' blocks are now called 'All Season'. These come in traditional 19" or new 14" blocks.

This high energy and protein feed and mineral block is for cattle and sheep accessing lower quality grazing/forage and is formulated to support optimal health and performance.

Speak to your local Tarff Sales Representative about the various blocks and buckets available.



New Lifelong Approach to Dairy Efficiency

Crystalyx have used their 40 years' experience in UK ruminant agriculture to develop the first range of feed blocks specifically formulated for dairy systems from calf rearing through to milking cows.

The dairy range includes feed blocks for use during calf rearing, the growing heifer stage and during transition.

For calves in the first 100 days, Crystalyx Calf 100 promotes early rumen development and starter feed intake. If calves are at risk of respiratory problems, Crystalyx Easy Breather contains menthol and eucalyptus to help maintain a healthy respiratory system.

Crystalyx Heifer 730 helps improve forage intakes and digestibility to keep heifer growth on target. In trials at Aberystwyth University, heifers fed the blocks grew 15.2% faster than the control group reaching bulling weight on average 40 days sooner.

In situations where flies reduce grazing behaviour, Crystalyx Heifer Garlyx Grazer helps protect heifers by acting as a fly repellent.

The range includes two products specifically formulated for use during transition. Transition Dry Cow is fed in late pregnancy while Transition 100 is formulated to stimulate appetite in fresh calvers through to 100 days in milk.

"In independent trials conducted by Dr Peter Ball, feeding Transition Dry Cow followed by Transition 100 resulted in 8 fewer days to first service, 21 days shorter calving to conception interval and 25% more cows in calf at 100 days," Crystalyx Technical Director Dr Cliff Lister reports.

"The new range offers dairy farmers a proven way for them to do dairy differently and meet the challenges they face head on."

The official launch of the new dairy range from Crystalyx is coming soon... Keep your eyes peeled!



Liver fluke - What's the problem?

Livestock farms in the wetter parts of the country will be aware of the damage liver fluke can cause. However, even where the impact on sheep flocks is clearly visible (ie deaths from acute fluke disease), the impact on productivity for both beef and dairy herds, and the impact of subclinical disease in the sheep flock, is often under-estimated. For example, beef animals with 10 or fewer fluke in the liver will take on average 31 days longer to finish.

However, maintaining a high level of liver fluke control is not straightforward. The seasonal lifecycle, requirement for the mud snail intermediate host and total dependence on weather conditions of both the mud snails and the environmental stages of the fluke, make the timing and level of fluke challenge extremely variable year to year and farm to farm. Adding to this the fact that not all liver fluke products will kill all the stages of fluke in the animal, means that routine treatments according to calendar dates will often miss the target, either treating too early before there are any fluke present, treating too late so that the damage is already done.

As the threat from liver fluke is so farm specific, with neighbouring farms often having very different challenges and disease levels, what questions should every farm be asking to make sure their fluke control is on target?

I know the sheep suffer from liver fluke, but I haven't seen any sign of disease in the cattle. Do I need to include the cattle in any liver fluke control plans?

Yes. Liver fluke will infect both cattle and sheep (and any other mammal that ingests the infectious metacercaria [cyst] stage on vegetation), so the liver fluke control plan needs to include all grazing animals on the farm.

How do I know which animals to treat and when to treat them?

There is no easy answer. As every farm is different, and each farm will differ from year to year, testing some sentinel animals will let you know when the infectious stages start to appear on pasture (this can be any time from late summer to early winter) Also, thinking about where the animals have been grazing – is there any mud snail habitat? – will help decide if any group is at risk or not (no mud snails = no fluke risk)

I know when the fluke challenge has started, and which grazing groups are most at risk, how do I know if/when further treatments are needed?

As the season progresses, checking dung samples for evidence of liver fluke infection (coproantigen test), will let you know when re-infection happens. On high-risk pastures in high challenge years, the infection pressure will mean significant liver damage happens between treatments. Moving animals off this ground is then the only option to avoid disease. For more information watch "Liver fluke Test don't Guess" webinar on demand at <https://www.farmanimalhealth.co.uk/webinars>.

Not all products will kill all stages of fluke in the animal, so what should I use and when?

First, always ask the prescriber or check the pack to see which active is in the product. When the fluke challenge starts, use a product that will kill the early immature fluke. Later in the season, when fewer new infections are expected, switch to a product targeting late immature and adult stages. Then in the late spring/early summer (or turn out time for cattle) switch again to a product that targets adult fluke to remove any fluke that have been missed by previous treatments.

To discuss fluke products, please speak to a Registered Animal Medicine Advisor in your local Tarff branch.