

NEWSLETTER

December 2008 No 30.



NORFOLK FARM VETS



Winter feeding of beef cattle and sheep

Many people shy away from looking at their ration in detail because they think it is all too complex to try and work out ~ it really isn't....

You need to look at the ME (energy), the ERDP (protein) and the mineral balance.

If you are feeding silage then it really should be analysed to see how good or bad it is as quality can vary widely. For most other home-grown products you can use 'book value' of ME and protein for that product.

For example you want to feed your weaned spring calving cows grass silage

Assuming a 650kg cow 8mths pregnant, she needs 78MJ/ME and 384g ERDP from a dry matter intake of 12 kg, i.e. the max dry matter she can eat at this time is 12kg. She can take in 10% of her body weight a day, i.e. 65kg.

Good young grass silage is approx 11.6 MJ/kg DM, 149 g/kg DM protein and 25% DM.

So if she eats 27kg of grass silage a day—then at 25%

DM that is 6.75 kg DM giving her

$6.75 \times 11.6 = 78.3$ MJ ME (energy)

$6.75 \times 149 = 1005.75$ g ERDP (protein)

So you are meeting her requirements.

So if you have 25 animals in a pen then you need to feed them 675 kg of grass silage per day. If you want to combine the grass silage with straw, you can add straw in and drop the amount of grass silage.....

For example giving them 10kg of barley straw a day each

Barley straw is 6.5MJ/kg DM ME, 23g/kg DM ERDP, 86% DM.

10kg barley straw gives her 8.6kg DM, 55.9 MJ/ME, 197g ERDP

You can therefore cut the grass silage required by 1/3 and still give her enough energy $55.9 + 1/3$ of $78.3 = 79.4$ MJ ME.

We haven't looked at minerals here—but this is the basic idea and hopefully it will give you the idea that it can be worked out on a scrap of paper.

If you want help looking at your ration for cows, youngstock or sheep—then give us a call at the practice and we would be more than willing to help.

Christmas Raffle.



Unbelievably it's that time of year again, so the Norfolk Farm Vets Christmas Hampers are back. As ever, we will make up two prizes stocked with the finest produce from our clients with everything from meat and veg to a pair of Mohair socks. There is a raffle ticket attached to this newsletter (or if you're receiving it by e-mail we have noted your number) and we will make the draw on the weekend before Christmas. If you weren't included last year and would like us to buy any produce from you to include in the hamper please shout. This is the perfect opportunity to add your details to the local produce section as well.

We'll see everyone to collect the produce soon, and to everyone else—Good Luck!

NFV Quiz

It's been a while but the time has come to flex your mental muscle with the latest Norfolk Farm Vets Quiz. The date has been set for **Wednesday 3rd February**. This is just a first warning, with the venue and time to be confirmed but just keep that evening free and start planning who you want (or don't want) to make up part of your winning team. Ideally there will be 4-5 per team. All farmers welcome NFV clients or not! Don't just think you can sweet talk Bridget and take home first place as there will be general knowledge and music rounds in addition to the stock based questions. There's not much Bridget does not know about farm animals but I'm not sure her Hip Hop knowledge is quite as complete! Watch this space in the next newsletter for further details. Everyone will, as ever, be well fed and watered so choose your designated driver!

I hope everyone saw the good article about John Garner in the EDP on the 24th November—He was promoting local produce and the importance of Farmers Markets and the people who sell there!

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e-mail: norfolkfarmvets@btconnect.com Website: www.norfolkfarmvets.co.uk

Address: 30 Gayton Road, Grimston, King's Lynn, Norfolk. PE32 1BG.

For Sale:

Tubar Cattle crush—excellent working order complete with weigh scales. **EB Feed Hopper**—13 tonne, fibreglass with low level discharge. Perfect condition. EB feeder system also available. Contact James Ashworth on: 07715 464832.

People:

Trevor Buxton full time milker with years of experience needs house with job call 07909935597

Pauline Buxton - Sheep Dog Training call 07979500879

Charlie Collison is available for professional stockmanship, sheep & cattle, and preparation of show cattle. If he can be any help give him a call on 07810106095

John Garner is looking for a lambing assistant for early lambing if interested please call John on 07785397746/01328 700277

Overdue accounts—a reminder

We are very aware that money is tight for a lot of people as Norfolk, the UK and the world slip into the 'R' word. However, we have an increasing number of overdue accounts and our accountants are insisting that we are stricter with chasing payment. Therefore, unless you discuss any issues with your account with us or we have arranged an alternative, we will be adding late payment charges to all accounts that have not been paid by the end of each month. If you are having difficulty paying please get in touch and talk to us about it and we can try and sort out a payment scheme that makes life a little easier.

What's New.....

There are two new intramammary mastitis treatments on the market:

- **Ubrolexin** uses two antibiotics, cefalexin and kanamycin, that work in synergy against clinical mastitis. It contains a similar antibiotic to Cephaguard LC/Cobactan MC and an antibiotic similar to streptomycin, so it is probably the closest combination we have seen to the old Streptopen MC which was very popular. It is designed to be used as a course of two tubes with 24 hours between doses, but as with many tubes it may need to be used for longer off licence. The standard milk withdrawal is 5 days.
- **Mastiplan** combines an antibiotic, cefapirin, and a steroid, prenisolone. The theory behind tubes that contain a steroid, another example would be Tetra Delta, is that they damp down the inflammatory response in the udder and hence the cell count. This is a course of 4 tubes at 12 hour intervals with a 5.5 day (132 hour) milk withdrawal.

We are trialling each of these on a couple of dairies and will report back with any results, good or bad.

Selectan injection is a florfenicol antibiotic exactly the same as Nuflor, however, it is much easier to syringe, it comes in plastic bottles of 250ml, and it is significantly cheaper £9.45 vs £10.58 a dose for a £150kg beast. To get the best out of all pneumonia drugs combine with an anti-inflammatory e.g. Flunixin (Finadyne) as in Resflor.

As most of you are aware we are strongly behind the campaign to encourage people to buy locally and reduce food miles, hence we recommend that everyone buy locally either via the Fakenham Farmers Market on the 4th Saturday of the month or directly from the producers listed below:

Duncan Jeary	Beef	07880 508104
Mrs Temple	Cheese	01328 820224
Pointen Bros.	Dairy Produce	01263 860338
John Garner	Game, lamb, turkeys	01328 700277
Houghton Hall	Lamb, Mutton, Beef, Pork and Eggs	07793 208655
Sandringham Beef and Lamb	West Newton Shop	01485 542219
Courtyard Farms	Organic Beef, Lamb and Pork	01485 525251 or courtyardfarm.organic@virgin.net
Perfick Pork	Pork, Lamb, Chicken & Beef	01328 829317
Mr Day, Hindolveston	Beef, Lamb and Vegetables	Farmers Market.
Simon Dann	Norfolk Farmhouse Ice-cream	On Farm/Local Shops.
Gavin Lane	Salt Marsh Beef	sales@saltmarshbeef.co.uk
Van Beuningen	Ash Farm Organics	01362 683228 www.ashfarmorganics.co.uk
Mrs. Willcox	Mohair Socks, Preserves, Eggs	Erpingham House Farm
Linda Cletheroe	Seasonal Fresh Vegetable	01263 587466 / 07780930903 Lindafreshveg.vpweb.co.uk Farmers Market

If your name is missing just call the office and we will add your details.

Local Produce

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