

Why Analyse Your Forage?

by Kyla Whiteside and Rae Park

Variations in the quality of grass silage have a major impact on the level of dairy and beef cattle performance. If you want to optimize production, whilst maintaining the health and fertility of your cattle, you must know the quality of the forage you are feeding. Rapid, accurate analysis of the forage ensures greater accuracy when formulating rations, and therefore enables producers to feed their herds to target yields with confidence. Appropriate concentrate supplementation strategies can be developed to avoid excessive body weight loss in early lactation and to feed for enhanced milk quality.

Your clamp of silage is a valuable asset, so get the maximum benefits possible by having your silage analysed. At AFBI Hillsborough silages are assessed, for a competitive fee, through the Hillsborough Feeding Information System (HFIS), giving accurate information on the preservation of the silage, potential intake, digestibility, protein, fibre, and metabolizable energy value, as well as the nitrogen and dry matter degradability of the forage. The dairy feeding models

used by HFIS provide the customer with predicted silage intake (kg DM per day) and expected milk yield (litres per day) for an average genetic merit Holstein-Friesian cow in week 12 of her 2nd lactation. The HFIS model for growing cattle, based on a Charolais steer of average condition, provides information on liveweight gain for 300 and 500 kg steers when supplemented with different levels of concentrate. Once you have an accurate assessment of the forage, your nutritionist can formulate the best ration specific for your herd's production and health.

To-date, the quality of silages produced this year looks to be better than in 2009. For samples analysed at Hillsborough over the period from July to mid October this year, compared to 2009, the average figure for DMD has increased by 2% (70 vs 68%), protein is higher (12.3 vs 11.7% DM) and fibre is lower (49 vs 52%) thus resulting in a predicted average increase in dry matter intake of 0.7kg per day and a lift of over 2 litres per day in milk yield, from 10.5 to 12.6 litres per day, when fed at zero concentrate.

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CREAMERY NEWSLETTER

BALLYRAINE, LETTERKENNY, CO. DONEGAL. TEL. (074) 9121766, FAX (074) 9124823

MASSIVE JUMP IN SEPTEMBER PRODUCTION - UP 15.6%

With the continued good weather giving optimum grass growth and utilisation milk production for September rose dramatically by 15.6%. With favourable weather conditions continuing into October we expect another rise in production. This increase in production to date amounts to approximately 3.5 million litres (not butterfat adjusted) over our quota position. (see note on National position)

U.K. SEPTEMBER MILK OUTPUT UP BY 6.2%

According to the latest R.P.A. milk production figures there has been an increase in output every month from May. September output increased by 65.9 million litres (6.2%) over September '09, giving a cumulative figure (not butterfat adjusted) increase for year of 236.2 million litres (3.44%)

Milk production figures for N.I. which are included in the above show a massive increase of 15% approx for September compared to September '09 up by 18 million litres. Butterfat for September was 3.93% down 7 points on September '09. Cumulative butterfat was 3.85% down 6 points for the same period last year April to September.

NOTICE NO. 10/07

2011/2012 MILK QUOTA TRADING SCHEME – 1st STAGE

NOTICE TO CO-OPERATIVES/DAIRIES AND MILK SUPPLIERS

Applications are invited from milk suppliers wishing to purchase or sell quota in the first stage of the 2011/2012 Milk Quota Trading Scheme. Application forms are now available from Co-operatives/Dairies.

The closing date for receipt of applications, which will only be accepted in the Department's Headquarters in Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, is **5th November, 2010**. Quota purchased under the Scheme will be available from 1st April, 2011.

The Scheme will be comprised of a Priority Pool and a Market Exchange, with the price for priority pool quota set by the Minister at **5 cent/litre**. The maximum quantity that can be purchased from the Scheme is 100,000 litres, except by those in the Successor or Lost Lease category of the Priority Pool. Sellers who are successful in selling only part of their quotas on the Market Exchange in their Co-op area will have the remainder of their quotas sold, through a national pool, to buyers in other Co-op areas who have not had their full request satisfied through their own Market Exchange.

All participants are advised to consult the Scheme's detailed rules, which are now available from Co-operatives/Dairies or directly from Milk Policy Division of the Department, and on the Department's website www.agriculture.gov.ie, under "Dairy Farming/Milk Quotas/Milk Quota Trading Scheme"

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
October, 2010.



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BRANCH OFFERS OCT
From Monday 25/10/10 to Friday 26/11/10

SOUTHERN STORES

- Cubicle lime ton bag €125.00
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- Buy 4 €168.00

OFFER OF THE MONTH

- Animec Super 200ml + 50ml f.o.c worth €25.00 €75.00

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Contact Brian/Malcolm 04882244184

Information for the ICOS Dairy Newsletter
Milk Quota Trading Scheme – National Element

Details of the 1st Stage of the 2011/2012 Milk Quota Trading Scheme have been announced by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries. The National Element will allow sellers of quota who have been successful in selling some, but not all, on the market exchange to dispose of the balance of their quota through a national pool. This element will only apply in 11 specific co-operative areas where there was a tradition of lack of demand for quota. This development clearly puts a focus on existing producers in those co-operative areas to avail of the opportunity to buy quota in their co-operative or lose that quota permanently through a national phase.

The quota surrendered will contribute to a national pool, the weighted average price of which will be established and distributed to purchasers of quota in other co-operative areas who were unsuccessful in purchasing their total demand for quota. The price that sellers receive for this portion of the quota will be the same as the price they receive for the remainder of their quota in their own co-operative area. The national pool allocation to individual producers who are unsatisfied in their purchasing application will be an average allocation from the national pool. If within a co-operative area there was no quota offered for sale in the local exchange but there was a demand to purchase quota, these buyers will receive the average national allocation. However, if there were sellers in a co-operative scheme and no buyers, that quota remains unsold. Likewise sellers in the 11 specified co-ops who tendered a price higher than the clearing price will have their quota unsold.

Sellers of quota in other co-operative areas who tendered a price higher than the market clearing price will not have their quota surrendered to the national element as the market clearing price clears all the quota offered up to that price.

Quota purchased under this Phase and Phase 2 in January will be available to producers from 1st April 2011.

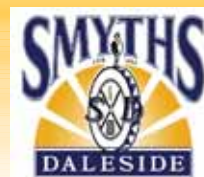
National Position

The National Position, as published by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries was 5.5% under quota at 31st August. The corresponding figure last year was 8% under quota. The final under quota position for the quota year 2009/2010 was 10.12% under quota. This is the lowest under quota position since the quota regime was established.

SCC Seasonality Formula

The following are the monthly coefficients determining Somatic Cell Count levels for the months November 2010 to February 2011 inclusive:

November	0.81
December	0.52
January	0.41
February	0.72



MANAGEMENT NOTES
OCTOBER 2010

Grass Tetany in Suckler and Dairy Cows

- So far October is an excellent grass growing month so beware of grass tetany.
- Around 40% of suckler cows have been shown to have low blood magnesium levels in September/October so tetany is a major threat. Even if cows do not develop tetany, low blood magnesium leads to loss in appetite and body condition.
- Cold weather, particularly sudden changes, low dry matter grass and a continuing milk demand from the calf can trigger tetany. Weaning reduces the risk but this is only practical where cows are in poor condition or with early spring calvers.
- Cows need 60g (2oz) of calcined magnesite/day to prevent grass tetany. This can be administered via the following routes:
 - Dust pasture with Cal Mag (7kg/ha for strip grazing)
 - Add magnesium via a concentrate
 - Provide free access blocks or licks
 - Magnesium bolus

Sheep

- Individual handling and assessing body condition of ewes 8 weeks prior to tugging is one of the keys to improving sheep performance. Target BCS at tugging for crossbred ewes is 3.0-3.5 while for hill ewes 2.5-3.0. It will take about 6 weeks to build up one BCS on a ewe.
- If grass is scarce during tugging feeding 0.25kg/head/day concentrates over a 6 week period will be money well spent, particularly for ewes in lower Body Condition Score.
- Foot problems can often be bought in with replacement stock. Pare feet if necessary and footbath with zinc/copper sulphate solution.
- Vaccination against Clostridial diseases should be given to all replacements, or lambs which will be carried over the winter months as well as adult ewes.
- Where abortion diseases are suspected, blood

sampling 10% of the flock should help identify the problem. Ewes can be vaccinated at least 4 weeks

Cow Condition/Dry Cows

- Managing cows to be in optimum Body Condition Score at every stage of the cow cycle has a great influence on cow performance, health and fertility. Cows on some farms are below optimum condition score, particularly very high yielding cows or those which are approaching drying off.
- Condition score 3.0-3.5 is optimum at drying off and if individual cows are below this 8 weeks before target drying off date, increase concentrate feeding level to achieve target BCS.
- When drying off always do so abruptly to reduce any potential loss in cow condition and to minimise the incidence of mastitis. The target length of dry period is 8 weeks. If a cow is yielding more than 20 litres at drying off, dry abruptly, treat with antibiotic tubes and feed on ad lib straw for the next 3-4 days. If a cow is yielding less than 20 litres, treat with antibiotics and give a reduced feed supply for the next 3 days.
- Remember the following when administering dry cow tubes:
 - Disinfect teats with methylated spirits and avoid contaminating the nozzle.
 - Always insert tube fully and massage teat upwards to aid dispersion of the antibiotic.
 - Immerse teats fully in iodine based dip and ensure cows stand for 30 minutes until the teat canal closes.
 - Record drying off date.
- Do not forget that in calf heifers should be treated as dry cows in the last two months of pregnancy. Dry cows should be fed a specialised dry cow mineral from the start of the dry period. Ideally this should be replaced with a specialised pre-calver ration 4 - 6 weeks before the cow is due to calf down.

By Jeremy McGonigle, Smyth Daleside Feeds

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DUGGAN VETERINARY

are holding a
Dairy Farm Information Meeting
in the Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny
On Tuesday 2nd November 2010 at 8.00 p.m.

SUBJECT New Vaccine to prevent and control Bovine Mastitis

All welcome and light refreshments will be served.

DAIRY HERD CERTIFICATE REMINDER

We urge all suppliers to get their Herd Certificate into us as soon as possible. Do not leave it until the end of the year when Vets are extremely busy. If you require certificate contact the Letterkenny office.