



FARMGATE STOCKFEEDS



The Farmgate Fodder | Autumn 2016

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POINTS TO LEAD FEEDING COWS

To reduce ruminal disruption

- "Pre-season training" for cows
- Re-introducing grain into the diet, allowing the rumen to adapt

To reduce the incidence of milk fever

- Aim to see less than 1% of the herd with clinical milk fever within 14 days of calving
- Record and review cows treated

To reduce the incidence of retained placenta (Metritis)

- Aim for less than 4% of cows with retained placenta 24 hours after calving
- Record and review cows treated

Limit the amount of 'green feed'

- Limit cows to 2kg DM of silage and/or pasture

Aim for 21 days in the springer paddock

- Not all cows calve on their preg test date, the optimal time on lead feed is 21 days

Feeding Lead feed to springing cows

- Feed 3kg/cow/day of lead feed



POINTS TO MANAGING FRESH COWS

Increasing dry matter intake

- This will assist in achieving peak production while assisting with fertility and reproduction
- Include canola meal in the fresh cow ration to drive appetite
- Limit the time spent in negative energy balance

Managing fresh cows

- The transition period is 3 weeks prior to calving and 3 weeks after calving

Reducing lameness

- Limit the distance freshly calved cows have to walk to and from the dairy for the first three weeks

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Farmgate Premium Lead Feed

A wheat, barley and corn blend of cereal grains, with the crude protein coming from lupins and canola meal.

It has flavourings and sugar to help palatability, acid buff and monensin to improve rumen buffering and efficiency, and a high spec trace mineral premix, including chromium.

How good is your Magnesium Source?

In order for the magnesium (Mg) from your grain mix to be bioavailable, it must be absorbed from the animal's digestive tract. Ruminants absorb most of their Mg across their rumen wall, providing the Mg source is sufficiently soluble.

Magnesium oxide (MgO) is one of the most commonly used Mg sources, with an average 55-60% of the element. The origin of your MgO source has been shown to effect the solubility and absorption in cattle.

Farmgate Stockfeeds use Causmag® which is a highly pure source of magnesium which is known for its high bioavailability. It is processed in Australia just out of Young NSW

What to look for in Autumn

Dry Cows

- Monitor body condition
- May need to separate lighter cows and feed a better quality hay to help them catch up
- Dry cows require a diet that is 12-14% CP and approximately 80MJ/cow/day

Close up cows

- Aim to start lead feeding 21 days before calving
- Ensure hay is tested for DCAD levels
- Limit 'green feed' to 2kg DM/cow/day

Lactating Cows

- Try to maintain maximum dry matter intakes
- Aim for above 16kg DM/cow/day
- Monitor water availability for stock
- May require extra water points on hot days

Young Stock

- The only true way to monitor progress of your young stock is to weigh them
- Separate lighter calves to a separate group and increase/improve feed offered

Around the farm

- Do a hay/silage inventory to ensure you have adequate supply
- Inspect paddocks that may need renovation and purchase seed early
- Assess paddocks for cricket infestations and bait as required
- When the grass starts to grow increase rotation length to create a pasture wedge

2016 Sungold Field Days

Don't forget we offer a free bulka bag delivery service on Tuesday & Thursdays!



Bulka bag winners

Michael Smith, Ross Canning, Emmanuel College

Launching our new website shortly,
visit
www.farmgatestockfeeds.com.au

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