AGRICULTURE

Dairy Bulletin

Edition 9

Inside this issue

Making the most of Moist Feeds

By Joe White, NWF Northern Sales Director

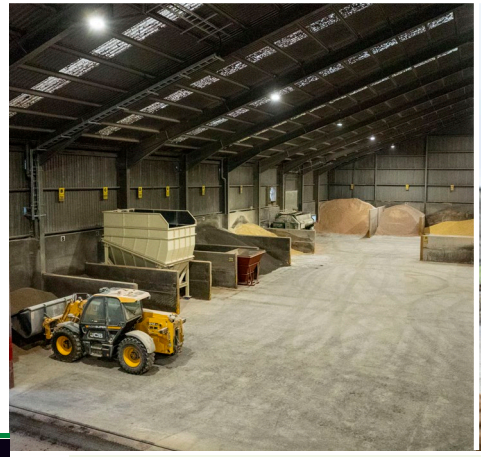
NWF Agriculture are delighted to announce the opening of a new state-of-the art moist feeds production site at the Aspatria Mill in Cumbria, supplying high-quality moist feeds to dairy, beef and sheep farmers.

The new innovative range has been specifically designed to extend forage stocks, increase palatability and drive intakes to allow herds to perform to their potential. Within the range, we have carefully formulated the diets to include NWF's protected protein, **Ultra Pro-R**; to increase bypass protein, protein efficiency and improve cow performance.

The range features three core diets; Brayton Titanium, Brayton Forage Boost and Brayton Gold, however due to the nature of the product and site capabilities we can also manufacture bespoke moist feeds to suit all systems and requirements.

Improving Sustainability Credentials at a Farm Level

Moist Feeds offer a sustainable feed source both at an operational and farm level. NWF Agriculture will, where appropriate, take raw material radius into consideration aiming to source as locally as possible from British sources, resulting in a low GFLI index and an efficient feed source on farm.



NWF Agriculture is now manufacturing and delivering Moist Feeds in the North West

OPEN FOR ORDERS

NWF Brayton Gold

Designed to replace forage and drive yields.

- Dry Matter 49.5%
- Protein 21.5% (DM)

Contains:

- **NWF Ultra Pro-R**
- Sugarbeet
- Acid-Based Preservative

Manufactured in Cumbria, UK

"I am confident our range will suit all livestock requirements."

"The UFAS accredited NWF production site has received £750,000 worth of investment over the last 12 months to create a fully operative, next-generation moist feeds plant, with a capacity of over 40,000 tonnes per year, available for delivery direct to farm or collection. We've worked closely with our customer base to identify a need in the market, for high-quality moist feeds that nutritionally excel on farm. Launching three core diets; Brayton Titanium, Brayton Forage Boost and Brayton Gold, I am confident our range will suit all livestock requirements."

Rob Warrington, Northern Business Unit Director, NWF Agriculture.

What is Grass Worth?

By Paul Mardell, NWF Technical Development Manager

As yield per cow increases, sustaining high yields at grass becomes more difficult. Grazed grass is still a cheap way of feeding dairy cows as long as a strict grazing policy is in place along with excellent grassland management and appropriate supplementary feeding to high yielding cows. The key to good grassland management is matching grass growth with grazing time and stocking rate. Measuring grass heights with a grass stick or plate meter will give a guide to grass availability over the grazing season and allow for better planning of the grazing cycle.

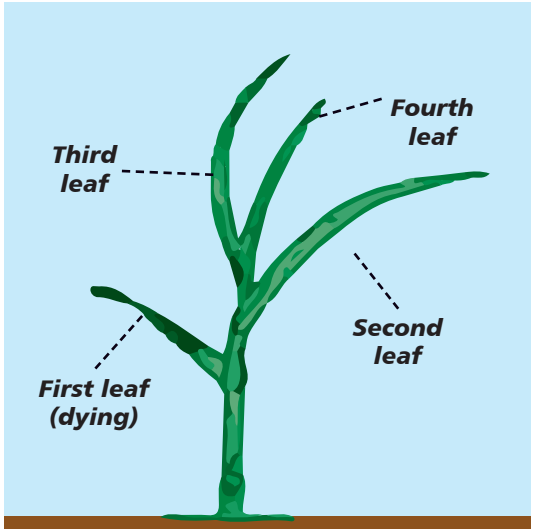
Research has shown that milk from grass could be as high as 29 litres. However this requires the cow to consume almost 20kg of grass dry matter per day! More realistically we should expect between 15 to 18 litres from grass in good grazing conditions. This milk yield requires a cow to consume 15kg dry matter of grass per day. With grass at 18% dry matter, this equates to 83kg fresh grass per day. As milk yield and supplementary feeding increases the opportunity to consume grass decreases.

Grass Quality

Many factors influence grass quality, we should concentrate on the factors that we can influence.

- Grass species
- Clover content
- Weeds
- Pests and Diseases
- Previous grazing residues
- Prolonged over grazing

The aim must be to produce a young, healthy, leafy, well managed quality sward with high ryegrass content, free from pests and diseases.



Grass Intakes

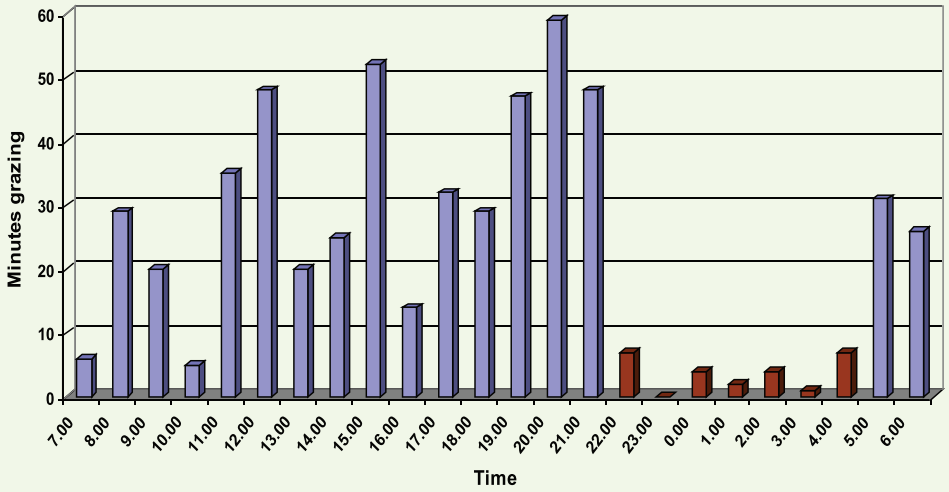
A cow's intake of fresh grass will be determined by a number of factors,

- Grass availability
- Grass quality
- Time allowed grazing
- Weather conditions

Assuming that a cow will graze for up to 10 hours per day, with unrestricted access to grass the rest of the time she would be ruminating and being milked. A cow harvests grass with her tongue, taking a bite every second. On average one bite is equal to 0.4g of dry matter (range 0.2g – 1.2g) so in 10 hours grazing a cow can consume 14.4kg of dry matter, if the grass has a ME of 12 this equates to maintenance plus approximately 18 litres of milk.

Grazing Behaviour

Cows will graze after morning milking until around 10am, then they tend to lie and cud for a couple of hours and graze periodically until afternoon milking. Weather also influences grazing behavior, unsettled wet weather or extreme heat will impair grass intakes. After evening milking cows tend to graze right up to dusk. If possible cows should be turned out to fresh pasture after evening milking, sugar levels are at their highest and research has shown an increase in intakes by 15% and milk yields by 5%.



Grassland Management

Ideally, we want to have fresh grass in front of cows on a daily basis. Cows should be turned out to pasture with a grass height of around 10-12cm (equivalent to 3000kg DM per ha). Cows should be removed from the field at around 5cm (equivalent to 1500kg DM per ha).

This would mean 100 cows grazing for 10 hours eating 14.4kg DM of grass would require approximately 1ha of fresh grass per day. In normal growing conditions this would normally take 21 days to return this paddock to a grazable height of 10-12cm. However the range could be from 14 to 25 days depending on growing conditions. While this ideal grass growth is variable, allowing for seasonal variations and having a flexible grazing policy works best.

Overcoming Heat Stress this Summer

By Louisa Lloyd, NWF Technical Formulator

With our naturally humid climate, late Spring and Summer often presents heat stress challenges in dairy herds; with herds being affected when temperatures reach 20°C. Cows thrive in cooler weather, performing at their peak between -5 to 15°C.

Heat stress is the term used to describe changes in the behaviour and physiology of cows as they attempt to regulate their body temperature in warm weather. A cow's optimal body temperature is 38°C; heat stress occurs when the outside temperature exceeds the animal's thermoneutral zone. The Temperature Humidity Index (THI) is a metric that uses environmental temperature and humidity to predict the likelihood of cattle becoming stressed.

Cows will begin to show serious signs of heat stress at 72 THI and above, but even when the THI is 68 and above, a compromise in performance will be noticeable;

- Milk yields can fall as much as 20% during heat stress.
- Heat stress is not limited to yield and milk constituents, it can also negatively impact fertility.
- The rumen pH is also affected in two ways:
  - DMI decreases, reducing the amount of saliva production and increasing gorge feeding.
  - Heat stress stimulates slobbering and panting which reduces the amount of saliva reaching the rumen.
- Emerging evidence suggests that calves from prepartum heat-stressed cows have compromised passive immunity and impaired immune function highlighting the knock-on effects of heat stress.

What are the signs of heat stress?

- Increased respiratory rate.
- Increased drinking.
- Increased standing behaviour (and often decreased dry matter intakes).
- Bunching behaviour – especially around water troughs, areas of fresh cool air breezes or near the top of sheds.
- Mouth breathing.

Heat Stress Solutions

- NWF Stable Rumen Pak
- NWF Healthy Rumen Pak
- NWF Acid Buf
- NWF Opti Rumen

Five Key Areas of Focus to Combating Heat Stress:

1 Water

- Consumption can increase by up to 30% during periods of hot and humid weather. For every 1°C increase in temperature, water consumption increases by 1.2 litres per day (*Source: Trouw Nutrition GB*).
- Ensure clean, fresh water with good access, and adequate trough space to ensure flow rates can keep up with demand.

2 Shade and Cooling Systems

- Sprinklers and fans are effective when cows experience heat stress. Only use misters and sprinklers where the environment and housing are suitable, where there is guaranteed air movement at cow level and where buildings have competent outlets.
- Remember stocking rates and ventilation. Make tweaks to buildings to improve the airflow.
- Do not forget dry cows and calves!

3 Supplements and Feed

- To maintain optimal rumen function, adding supplements such as a buffer or yeast can help.
- Increase energy density of feed, to compensate for lower intakes.
- Ensure feed is palatable to encourage intakes.
- Consider feeding early morning and late afternoon, when temperatures are cooler.

4 High-risk animals (Transition or sick cows)

- These animals are more affected due to their immune response. Encouraging water and feed intake is critical.

5 Handling of animals:

- Restrict handling to early mornings and late evenings, where temperatures are cooler.
- Remember not to overcrowd pens as they will need the space for cooling.
- Limit the period they are contained to no more than an hour.

THI 70
23.5°C
Cow rectal temperature (and therefore internal temperature) increases

THI 69
23°C
Cow heart rate increases

THI 68
22°C
Respiration rate increases (above 60 breaths per minute)

THI 67
21.5°C
Lying and standing time behaviour changes

THI 65
20°C
Time spent at drinker and displacement of other cows at the drinker increases

THI 52
10°C
Rumination time begins to decline in high yielding cows

What's happening in your parlour?

By Rebecca Cavill, Farm Vet, BVetMed CertAVP (Cattle) PgCert MRCVS

Parlour service and maintenance have always been part of the mainstay of mastitis prevention and cell count control, with an estimated 20% of mastitis issues arising from the parlour.

Static parlour testing is the easiest and most common type of machine testing, but this does not allow a look at what is happening when the parlour is on and the cows are in. Milking time testing (dynamic testing) will look at the interaction between the cow, operator and milking machine during the milking. The static test is a Red Tractor requirement, whereas milking time testing is a recommendation once a year. When thinking of a comparison, it is a like having an MOT on a vehicle compared to a full service.

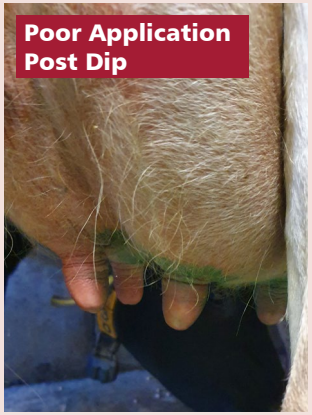
Milking time testing can be performed in different ways. Traditionally a flow meter with a needle is introduced into the tubing at different points and times in the parlour to show vacuum for that particular area, at that set time. VaDia meters now exist which monitor the vacuum at four different points throughout milking, giving us a more complete picture of what is going on with different cows at different clusters. It also allows us to test pulsators and perform other vacuum reserve tests as well as investigating Bactoscan issues. VaDia kits are available to trained personnel which includes parlour engineers and vets. Torch Farm Vets have been performing milking time testing since 2018.

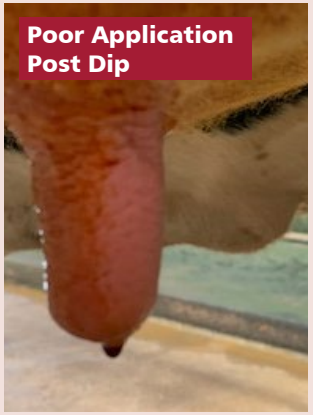
The most common issues we come across are:

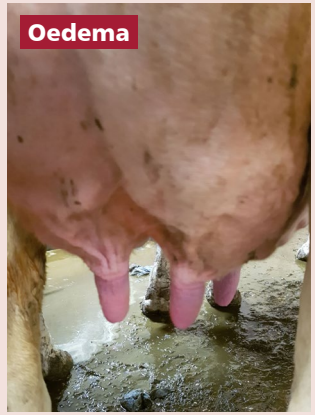
- ACR settings need adjustment.
- Pulsator settings require a change to rate or rhythm (or new tubing!).
- Biphasic milking (caused by attachment too early or too late post-teat preparation).
- Teat end damage.
- Teat wedging.
- Discolouration of teats (purple or red when clusters come off).
- Poor liner fit.

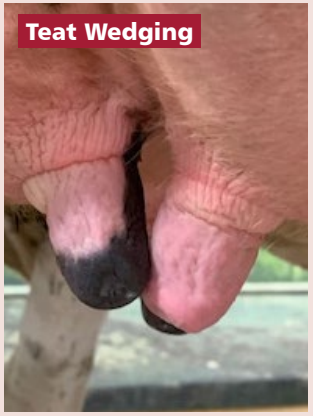
As well as interpreting information from the VaDia meters, it is important to review the parlour routine. This includes what pre and post-milking treatments are being used and what the coverage is like, teat scores, attachment times for units and cow comfort. It can also be useful to review the data from the meters and mastitis pattern analysis. Was the cow uncomfortable because the liner fit was poor? The unit stayed on too long? The milk letdown was inadequate?

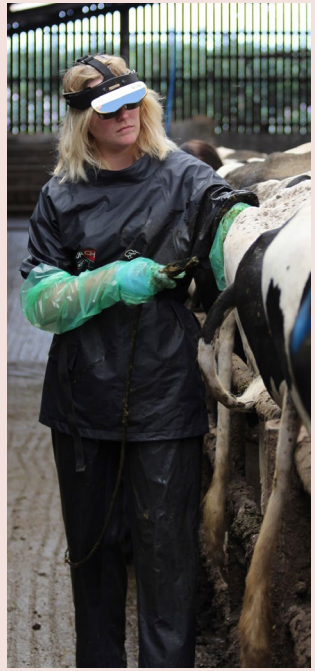
Have you seen any of these in your cows?











What level of emollient is in your post dip? What efficiencies can we find in the parlour with the routine that is being performed? How well does your liner size fit your cows? Could milk let down and therefore milking times be improved?

Whilst parlour testing can help identify issues causing cell count and mastitis issues, we have also found that in herds where these are well controlled, there are changes that can be made which means cows are milked out more completely or quickly adding to cow comfort which in turn can pay back in yields.

For further information on Udder health and parlour testing, please speak to Torch Farm Vets or your local farm veterinary practice.

www.torchfarmandequine.co.uk

TORCH FARM VETS

Join the 'R'evolution

By Paul Mardell, NWF Technical Development Manager

At NWF Agriculture, we are committed to innovation, producing sustainable products that help our customers achieve higher milk yields, better cattle growth rates, and higher lambing percentages. Farmers are increasingly recognising that reducing carbon emissions per litre or kilogram of meat can be achieved by improving efficiencies, leading to greater profitability and farm credentials.

As part of our commitment, NWF Agriculture is excited to introduce Revolution. Revolution is a proven palm-free fat supplement for high-yielding cows, designed to enhance productivity and environmental sustainability.

It has been shown to increase milk yields and quality whilst offering a lower carbon footprint compared to palm oil-based supplements. Revolution boosts dietary energy density, optimises rumen fermentation, and primes liver function; all resulting in higher milk yields and improved constituents, as well as boosting overall cow health and fertility.

Revolution includes Omega 3s, sourced from the most effective marine oils, with EPA and DHA to help support high yields, reproductive performance and immunity. Additionally, a specific rumen buffer improves rumen efficiency, increasing fibre digestion and volatile fatty acid production, which leads to increased production.

Key Benefits Include:

- Increased milk yield.
- Higher butterfat content.
- Enhanced protein levels.
- No decrease in dry matter intake (DMI).
- Lower carbon footprint of milk produced.
- Increased milk short-chain fatty acids and DHA.

Independently calculated figures show that Revolution provides a 64% reduction in CO^2 compared to calcium soap, with an 11% reduction in CO^2 per litre of milk produced.

Revolution is included in the NWF compound feed range, and can also be incorporated into blends and supplied as a straight.

For further information on NWF Revolution, please speak to your local NWF Sales Specialist or call 0800 756 2787.

Composition	Typical Analysis	
Vegetable Oil Blend	Dry Matter	94.0%
Marine Oil	Protein	2.2%
Wheat Feed	Oil	50.0%
Carriers	Ash	3.0%
Glycerine	Fibre	22.5%
Calcium Oxide	Sugar	1.9%

ME 29.8Mj/kg DM

Feeding Recommendations:

This product is suitable for lactating cows giving over 15 litres. Intended for mixing into rations to achieve a feeding rate of 0.5-0.75kg per cow/day.

Speak to your NWF sales specialist about sustainable fats

Maximising cow health and performance through improved infrastructure

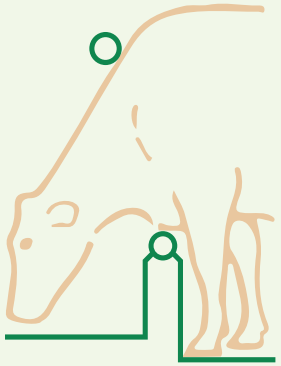
By Katie Smith, NWF Technical Formulator

Utilising the cow signals diamonds, we can identify six key freedoms of a cow; Feed, Water, Light, Air, Rest and Space. The concept is simple; understanding and rearing yours cows' behaviour with the aim to improve surroundings, leading to increased yields, improve herd health and improved fertility rates.

Feed

Cows naturally graze throughout the day, rather than having 'set meals' like we do, so having constant access to feed is a crucial pillar of health on farms. The average cow consumes anywhere from 8-12 meals a day, anywhere up to 45 minutes per time. To ensure maximise DM intakes, we must provide 24-hour access to feed through regular push-ups and feed wall space.

We recommend a slightly raised feed platform, with the brisket not being rubbed or knocked, and a slightly offset neck rail. This allows the cow to stretch down and eat comfortably.



Sizing Recommendations

- Floor to neck rail: 125cm high, recess of 25cm
- Floor to brisket: 50cm
- Width of barrier: 8cm
- Brisket to feed table: 40cm

Water

It is vital that dairy herds have constant access to a supply of clean, fresh water. With over 85% of milk being water, a typical high-yielding dairy cow will drink upwards of 120 litres per day. We recommend the water trough is large enough for 10% of the herd to access at any one time.

15 The number of litres a cow can drink in a minute

60 A cow will drink most of her daily intake within 60 minutes of milking

30 The number of minutes a cow will drink in a day

120 The number of litres a 30L cow will drink in a day

Light

A lactating cow needs 16-18 hours of daylight (>200 lux) and 6-8 hours at <50 lux. However, for dry cows it's the opposite; to help with issues of heat stress and to drive intakes.

Air

Good ventilation is imperative in housed cattle, with pneumonia and respiratory diseases being associated. Depending on shed design and location, ventilation by the wind will drive air through removing stale air, however your shed may require an outlet to promote better flow. Cobwebs, wet floors, damp sawdust/bedding and condensation on walls and roofing are all signs are reduced/poor ventilation. We can also look at reducing stocking densities to help with stagnant stale air. During the warmer months, faster breathing and lethargic animals are typically the first symptoms of heat stress in housed herds.

Space

Nothing should prevent cows from accessing feed, water or a bed, they should be free to socialise without any hindrance. Ideally, we want no dead-end alleys, tight cubicles or small feedwall space. In an ideal world, we recommend 1.25 square metres per 1000 litres produced; so an 8000L cow will need 10 square metres of space.

Rest

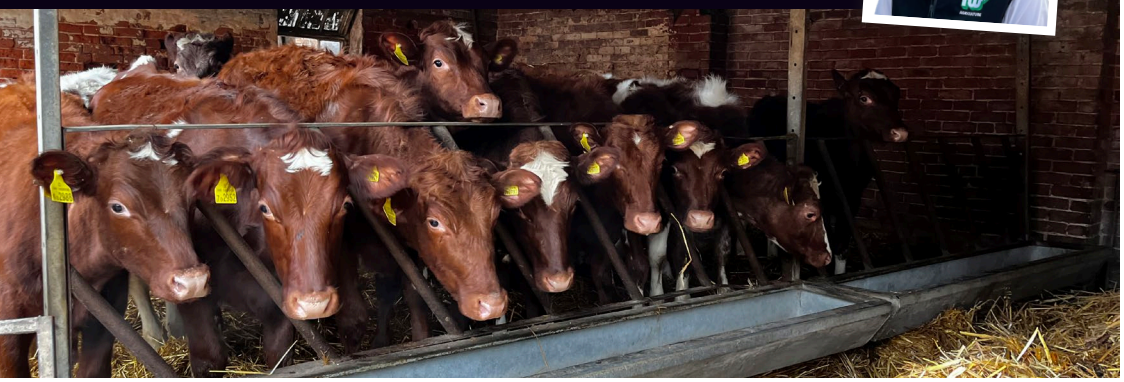
The optimum lying time for health and production in a 24 hour period is 14 hours. To achieve this, cubicles need to be of the correct design so that cows can enter, stand and lie squarely in them, and have adequate lunge room when standing. The difference between 9 hours lying time and 14 hours is an extra litre of milk production for each extra hour (Grant, 2003), with 30% more blood circulating through the udder.

Uncomfortable beds make cows reluctant to lie down, as well as potentially causing skin abrasions, joint inflammation and infection. Longer standing times lead to increased lameness and lower production, plus additional treatment costs. The drop knee test can be used to test cubical matting or mattress comfort, animals can also be timed from entry to the cubical to lying with a target of under 60 seconds.

Deep bedded sand, whilst bringing infrastructure challenges, would be deemed as the gold standard for optimum lying times. Deep bedded means sand should be front loaded over the brisket bar to encourage lying time and fluid drainage. Sourcing the correct grade of sand is paramount to avoid contamination, which can risk a rise in somatic cell counts.

Sustainable Nutrition for Award-Winning Herd

By Abbie Norbury, NWF Sales Specialist



Located within the grounds of Dunham Massey National Trust, just outside of Altrincham, tenant farmer Stuart Royale runs Home Farm and the Dunham herd, a 213-acre award-winning farm.

Stuart and the team milk the 130 Pedigree Dairy Shorthorns twice a day, with a rolling average of 6,800 litres, 4.6% fat and 3.25% protein. The herd is grazed between Spring and Autumn, with 110 acres used for grass silage and 40 acres for spring barley, which is reseeded after harvest in August ready for the following spring.

"*Although I am happy with the current performance, I would love to hit 7,500 litres. Working closely with our NWF sales specialist, Abbie, who analyses our fresh grass and silage, along with tweaking our diet and feeding regime, we are steadily trending upwards and I am confident we will hit our goal. We are currently feeding baled silage, along with a daily average of 5.7kg of NWF's Dairy Fusion 18 compound in the parlour. Originally feeding NWF's Performance 18, we have swapped to a soya and palm kernel free compound due to Tesco milk-buying requirements and to improve our farm sustainability credentials. We have had excellent results with the Fusion diet, milk yields have continued to increase and herd health has not been impacted,*" says Stuart.

The NWF Agriculture **Fusion Dairy** compound is a high-performing ration, containing high levels of NWF's protected feed range, **Ultra Pro-R** and **Ultra Starch-W**. This ensures that high levels of bypass protein and starch are available to support production, fertility and the health of your herd. The NWF Fusion Range is free from HiPro Soya, soya hulls & palm kernel, resulting in less than half the Co2 equivalent (GFLI number) of other compound feed.

Making the most of forage & youngstock development

Stuart cuts approximately 110 acres, three times a year, choosing to bale rather than clamp due to farm layout and ease of feeding. Feeding a high-quality silage is not only key for herd health and performance, but it also plays a critical role in the farm's bottom line.

Every year approximately 40 acres of spring barley is also grown, to be used as straw for bedding and bulking the youngstock diets, and used as forage extender in the milking herd. Whilst weaning on NWF's Calf Starter Pellet, Stuart adds straw to the diet to provide roughage and help further stimulate rumen development.

"*We are currently running at around 110 head of youngstock from calves to heifers at the moment, reared on a high-quality milk replacer and NWF's Calf Starter Pellet. The calves look excellent; we have had excellent growth rates and the coats have a great shine. They are the future of our award-winning herd, recognising the importance of a great start has really followed through into maturity*", adds Stuart.

Award Winning Herd

In 2024, Home Farm won the prestigious ***Cheshire Premier Dairy Herd Champion Trophy*** as part of the Cheshire County Farms Competition. An award given to the best in-milk and dry cow herd, inspected on breeding and replacement policies, health and disease manager and performance figures.

"*After winning the award in 2024, along with the 2023 North Midlands Breeders Champion Award, we were asked to host an on-farm event, which NWF Agriculture kindly sponsored. It was a real pleasure to be recognised for the hard work the team put in every day, I'm already working on plans for 2025 entries!*" says Stuart.

NWF Agriculture would like to thank Home Farm for their continued support and business.

For further information on the NWF Fusion range, or for advice on improving on-farm performance and sustainability, **please speak to your local NWF Sales Specialist or call 0800 756 2787**.

L-R - Abbie Norbury and Stuart Royale

Feeding For Success this Summer

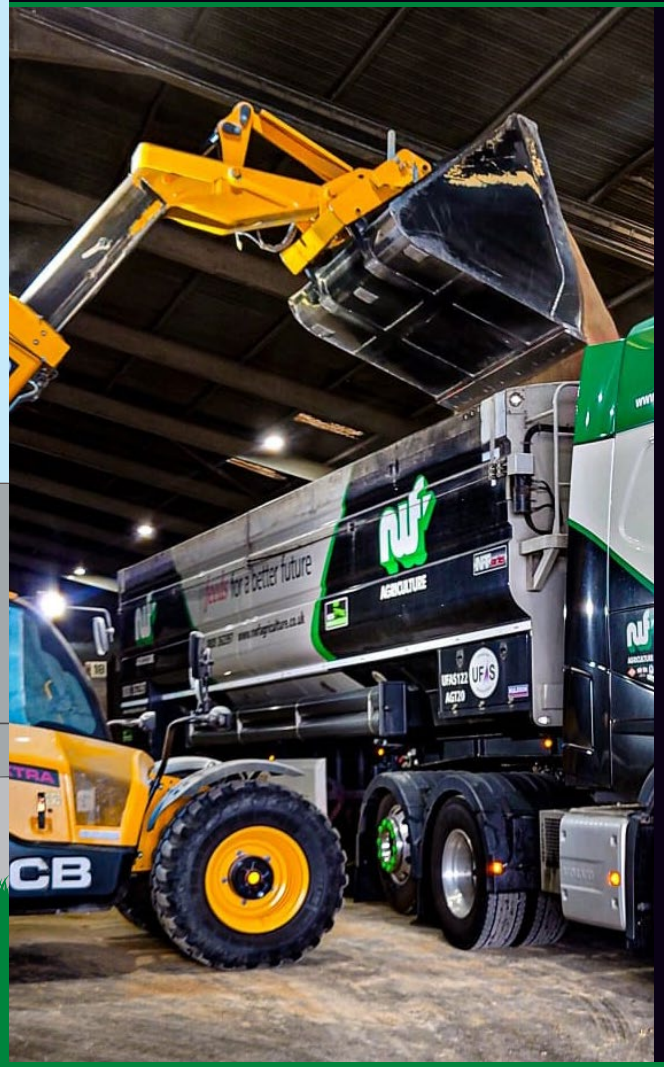
As we know, grass can be a very cost-effective feed. It is a good source of rumen degradable protein, highly fermentable carbohydrates and sugars, so making the most of it can not only help the bottom line but maintain animal performance.

There are some challenges when cows are at grass. Grass has high levels of oil which can "coat" the fibre in the diet, decrease acetate production and subsequently reduce butterfats. It is also low in structural fibre and high in fermentable sugars, which can result in a drop in rumen pH, increasing the risk of acidosis. Consistency is also another challenge, in both quality and intakes. Moisture, ground conditions and overall grassland management will all influence this. To supplement grazing NWF offer a range of summer dairy diets to suit all systems.

Contact your NWF Feed Specialist for more information about our winter range

NWF Blends: Driving flexible performance from day one

The use of blends in feeding systems can offer significant benefits when looking to feed livestock a nutritionally balanced, cost-effective diet whilst reducing the overall cost. NWF Agriculture can formulate specific blends making use of a wide variety of top quality raw materials, sourced from around the world which are then accurately blended together at the fully UFAS approved facilities.



- ✓ Soya
- ✓ Rapemeal
- ✓ Distillers
- ✓ Sugarbeet
- ✓ Soya Hulls
- ✓ Maize
- ✓ Wheat
- ✓ Barley
- ✓ Maize Sugar
- ✓ Wheatfeed
- ✓ PK
- ✓ Molasses
- ✓ Supplements

BESPOKE BLENDS MADE YOUR WAY

Robot Ultra 17

Robot Ultra 17 is specifically designed for high-yielding cows being milked through a robot system. It has been formulated to be highly palatable and robust to encourage cows to visit the robots.

It is a high-energy compound combining a range of starch and protein sources including Maize, Wheat, HiPro Soya and NWF's unique protected feeds **Ultra Soy** (Protected Soya), **Ultra Pro-R** (Protected Rape) and **Ultra Starch-W** (Protected Wheat). Robot Ultra 17 contains generous levels of sugar beet and soya hulls giving digestible fibre for rumen function and to aid butterfat production. Robot Ultra 17 is non-mineralised which enables precision mineral nutrition which can be targeted down the feed barrier.

Robot Ultra 17

- Specifically designed to be fed through automated milking systems.
- Non-mineralised to allow more accurate mineral nutrition down the trough.
- Highly palatable and robust nuts.
- High levels of by-pass protein (MPB) from HiPro Soya and from our unique protected feed range, **Ultra Pro-R** and **Ultra Soy**.
- Very high energy and high glucogenic levels.
- Starch from multiple sources to provide safe digestion including **Ultra Starch-W** (Protected Wheat), Maize and Wheat.
- High levels of digestible fibre from sugar beet and soya hulls for rumen function and health.

Technical services to support your dairy business

NWF Agriculture provide a comprehensive portfolio of services for your dairy farm.

Rationing and Diet Formulation

Through precise rationing using modern formulation models, NWF can fine-tune feeding strategies with greater accuracy whilst keeping animal health and rumen stability in mind. Using NutriOpt, NWF can formulate nutritionally balanced, bespoke blends and utilising a wide range of compounds to complement home grown forages.

Forage and Feed Analysis

The NWF accredited laboratory analyses over 8,000 silage samples each year operating a two day turnaround to help ensure diets are balanced accurately. In addition, raw materials and finished products are regularly analysed to ensure the highest level of quality control is achieved.

Costings and Milk Production Forecasting

Farm costings can play an important role in profitability, enabling attention and actions to be focused on the areas in most need. NWF Agriculture works with Kingshay Dairy Manager to ensure accurate data is collated and reported.

Dung and Diet Sieving

Rumen health is closely linked to fibre and feed utilisation, both of which are key to ensuring optimum milk yield from forage is achieved. The NWF sales team are fully trained in using dung sieves to help determine fibre utilisation and Penn State Separators which can show how physical diet composition can affect rumen dynamics.

Other Services

- Youngstock Tools and Training
- Interherd Plus
- Body Condition Scoring
- Mobility Scoring
- Cow and Calf Signals
- Mineral Analysis
- Soil Testing
- On Farm NIR

Request your FREE Costings Calendar

Spring and Summer Grazing

UK Grass Seed Experts

BARENBRUG

Comprehensive range of high-quality NWF grass leys available.

By James White, Account Manager, Barenbrug UK

Now's the right time – with spring almost upon us – to get smart about your grazing plans for the season ahead, says Barenbrug's Account Manager, James White. In general, the UK is blessed with the perfect climate for growing grass, and most of us can grow it in abundance. But when it comes to grazing, or indeed any aspect of producing grass, then always make resilience your buzzword.

That's because we need to cope with the extremes. The summer of 2023 saw much reduced grass growth, right at the time of year when we would expect it to be at its highest. That was followed by the 2023/2024 winter, when the rain just kept on coming.

In fact, 2024 turned out to be a 'good summer' for grass growth, with both quality and yield matching expectations. That good summer also provided much-needed headroom for damage recovery: the wet winter left a trail of problems across many a pasture. Of course, we're always at the mercy of the weather, and no-one yet knows how 2025 will turn out. But with some relatively effortless preparation now, we can take steps to mitigate against whatever later months may bring.

We're talking pasture assessments. Get out into the fields, take a long hard look at every ley and pasture, and make an objective assessment of their condition and quality. It will allow you to rank every field on the farm, in turn giving you all the information needed to plan out your grass strategy for the year ahead.

We designed Barenbrug's Grassland Index (bit.ly/good-grass) with simplicity in mind, to provide an easy and accessible decision-support system. While a ley might appear green and healthy over the gate, only with a closer look can you assess its true condition.

Assigning an index of 1-5, where GI1 is poor and GI5 is excellent, will help you build your 2025 grass strategy in the best possible way. With a score assigned to every field, you can categorise your fields into groups. At the most basic level, you'll have those that are performing as expected, at GI5 – perhaps more recent leys, or those on good ground – as well as some that might have suffered too much damage over the last couple of years and which can be earmarked for reseeding.

With those needing attention marked as 'out of production', you've identified the fields likely to be most productive and offer the best resilience in any wet or dry conditions headed our way later in the year and can match them to your livestock performance requirements. Which ones are best suited to the demands of early turnout? Where will the flock graze post-lambing? Which ley is likely to give you the highest quality first cut?

As for those being reseeded, put your production goals front of mind: you're giving yourself the freedom to change, so seize this opportunity to sharpen your grass strategy. Every farm's production goals are unique; by making the right grass choices, you can truly smash those objectives.

Speak to your local NWF Sales Specialist about maximising grassland performance this Spring.

NWF Youngstock Feeds and Blends

NWF Agriculture manufactures a comprehensive range of high-quality youngstock compounds and blends, specifically formulated to improve calf growth rates and health. All NWF feeds are manufactured at UFAS approved production sites located in Cheshire, Cumbria and Devon, with feeds delivered direct to farm or available for collection.

NWF Calf Pellets	A high-quality starter pellet that is suitable from birth until weaning. A high energy, palatable feed formulated to promote early intakes and rumen development.
NWF Vital Rearer	A specialist diet to complement a grass silage-based diet. Available in a range of proteins.
NWF Super Rearer	A specialist diet to complement a grass silage-based diet. Available in a range of proteins.
NWF Deluxe Rearer	A specialist diet with elevated protein levels to suit straw systems.
NWF Fusion Rearer	A specialist rearer diet to complement grass silage and grass-based diets. As part of NWF's Fusion range, Fusion Rearer is soya and palm kernel free.

Available in a range of proteins.

The use of blends in youngstock systems can offer significant benefits when looking to feed calves a nutritionally balanced, cost-effective diet, whilst reducing overall feed costs. NWF Agriculture manufacture a range of standard and bespoke blends, using a wide range of high-quality raw materials.

NWF Sweetstart	A premium starter mix, excellent for promoting early intake.
NWF Coarse Calf	A high-quality calf starter ration available as a 16% or 18% protein mix. Contains high levels of hipro soya, sugar beet pulp and micronized flakes.
NWF Heifer Max	An excellent second stage 18% protein follow on diet from Sweetstart or Coarse Calf diets. Formulated to ensure weaned calves maintain excellent growth rates through to calving.
NWF Progress Plus	In addition to the essential vitamins and minerals, Progress Plus has high binding properties which limit the colonisation of harmful bacteria in the intestine. At the same time as supporting the microflora by favouring the development of beneficial microbes. This helps maintain feed utilisation and growth performance when the calf's health is challenged.

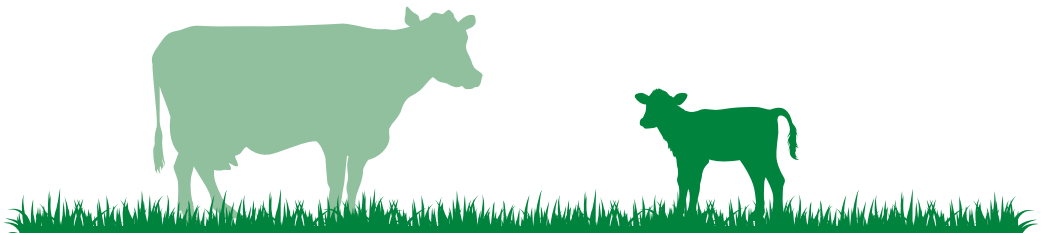
Minerals & Supplements

Minerals and vitamins are essential components of all livestock diets. The NWF Youngstock team can review current feed rations and analyse forage to match appropriate minerals.

NWF Ultramin Youngstock	A robust youngstock mineral, specifically designed to support growing cattle.
NWF Cattle GP	General purpose mineral bucket specifically designed for dairy cows, suckler cows, youngstock and store cattle. Available in 20kg or 80kg buckets.
Calf Renova	Calf Renova is an easy-to-use bolus containing a source of natural ingredients. When calves are susceptible to scouring or at first signs of diarrhoea, helping them recover their hydration status and appetite for continued growth is the top priority.
BlueLite® C Hydratabs	Bluelite® C Hydratabs is a highly palatable electrolyte supplement providing oral hydration support to pre-weaned calves. Bluelite® C Hydratabs can be administered with milk, milk replacer or water to enhance digestion, and has been proven to be an effective and easy way to calves maintain hydration.

For the cow

Fresh Cow YMCP	A total fresh cow solution providing rehydration and essential nutrients for optimum peak yields.
Rumen Yeast Caps	A source of yeast a vitamins in an easy-to-use to be used at off-feed events.



Speak to your local NWF sales specialist or call 01829 797100 to maximise dry cow and youngstock performance

NWF Milk Replacers

The NWF calf milk replacer range is formulated to provide options for every calf rearing system and budget.

NWF ULTRA LIFE - SKIM
24% Protein, 20% Oil
LIFESTART SETS LIFE PERFORMANCE

NWF ULTRA MILK YELLOW
22% Protein, 18% Oil

NWF ULTRA LIFE - WHEY
24% Protein, 20% Oil
LIFESTART SETS LIFE PERFORMANCE

NWF ULTRA HI PRO HEIFER
26% Protein, 17% Oil

NWF ULTRA MILK BLUE
22% Protein, 19% Oil

NWF ULTRA LIFE ELITE
22.5% Protein, 22.5% Oil
LIFESTART SETS LIFE PERFORMANCE

MILKIVIT ENERGIZED CALF MILK REPLACER
22.5% Protein, 25% Oil
LIFESTART SETS LIFE PERFORMANCE

NWF ULTRA MILK PLATINUM
23% Protein, 25% Oil

NWF ULTRA MILK DIAMOND
23% Protein, 20% Oil

NWF ULTRA MILK GOLD
22% Protein, 19% Oil

NWF ULTRA MILK EMERALD
21.5% Protein, 18% Oil

NWF ULTRA MILK RUBY
24% Protein, 20% Oil

NWF ULTRA MILK SAPPHIRE
22.5% Protein, 18% Oil

*"After making the switch the **NWF's Ultra Milk Platinum** for our Jersey calves last year, we've had excellent growth rates and noticed significant differences in their appearance. The higher energy and fat percentage of **NWF Ultra Milk Platinum** really suits the Jersey breed. We are feeding 5 litres of calf milk replacer a day, in two 2.5 litre feeds, at a 13% mixing rate. By four weeks old, the calves have a beautiful shine, which continues well after weaning on starter pellets. We've had no health issues either which has been excellent in keeping calves on track as they age."*

Robert and Lorraine Hunter, Clydevalley Jerseys, West Tarbrax Farm, Lanarkshire.

Meet the NWF Youngstock Team

Louisa Lloyd: Head Office Technical Support
Louisa grew up on a dairy farm in North Wales and always had a keen interest in animal productivity and welfare, especially youngstock. This led her to complete an MSc in Animal Nutrition at the University of Nottingham where her interest in youngstock grew. Louisa is focused on improving farm sustainability through maximising efficiencies and youngstock management.

Lucy Richardson: Cheshire and Midlands
From growing up and working on her family dairy farm in Cheshire, to studying for a technical diploma in agriculture at Reaseheath College, Lucy has a passion for improving youngstock management to help farmers maximise their calf-rearing enterprises. Lucy previously worked as a calf rearer, focussing on driving DLWG and calf health to support the future milking herd.

Jessica Wakefield: Cornwall, Devon and South West
Growing up on a beef and sheep farm in Cornwall, Jess took on ownership of calf rearing from a young age. After completing a degree in agricultural studies at Plymouth University, Jess worked as a calf rearer whilst buying and rearing her own youngstock. Alongside her role at NWF Agriculture, Jess operates a beef suckler and finishing unit in Cornwall.

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with NWF Additives

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- **NWF Ultra Guard Plus**
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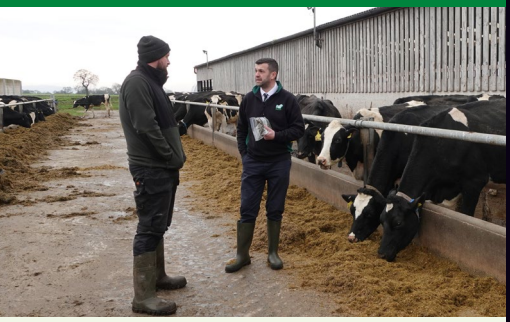
Keep up to date with the NWF events we are attending in 2025. View event page online
www.nwfagriculture.co.uk/events

Interested in a career opportunity with NWF?



We are recruiting for a number of roles within the business. If you have a passion for agriculture and are forward-thinking then view the latest vacancies online:
www.nwfagriculture.co.uk/careers

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