

Reasons to feed molasses: The Forage Boost



The importance of production from forage



- Forage is the most economical feed ingredient in a ration as it is home grown so all dairy farms aim to maximise production from forage to reduce their overall costs per litre
- Intakes will be limited if the forage is too high in NDF as feeds high in fibre will take the cow's rumen longer to digest
- Intakes will also be reduced if the forage is poorly mixed and presented in the feed passage as ration sorting could occur leading to waste and more potential for acidosis

Why Molasses helps to get the most out of forage

- Molasses increases overall dry matter intakes of forage so drives more production from cows
- Molasses adds sugars to a ration which ferment quickly in the cow's rumen helping with the digestion of more fibrous feeds, nutrient absorption and overall rumen function
- Molasses improves the palatability and presentation of forage in the feed passage reducing ration sorting, feed waste and the potential risk of acidosis

The facts behind how molasses improves intakes of forage based diets



The primary nutritional component of molasses is sugars, sugars are a rapidly fermentable carbohydrate and will fully break down in the rumen less than 2 hours after feeding and be fully digested within 4 hours. The sugars stimulate microbial activity when they break down which helps to increase the overall digestibility of more fibrous feed materials in the rumen.



Molasses stimulates the microbial activity in a cow's rumen by increasing Volatile Fatty acid production which has been shown to improve nutrient absorption in the digestive tract and reduce the risk of acidosis.



As Molasses is a liquid a cow can physically consume approx. 0.5kg more Dry Matter intake per day over a forage based diet containing only dry feed materials.



The extra Dry Matter intake means the cow is getting around 6 MJ of energy boost a day when Molasses is included which should translate to an increase of over 1 litre of extra milk produced per day in a dairy cow.



Molasses is a thick and sticky liquid with a high sugar content and natural "gumminess" due to the amount of polysaccharides and sugars that are left from its production from sugar cane. These properties are perfect for making sure dry feed ingredients in a TMR are correctly mixed and dust levels reduced so subsequent waste from sorting in the feed passage is minimised.



The sugars in molasses add a natural sweetness to forage based rations that stimulates the taste receptors in the cow's tongue to want to voluntarily eat more of the ration.



A farm in Cumbria raised their average Dry Matter intake over 550 cows from 19kg to 19.7kg by adding just 0.5kg Caneflow Molasses to their dairy TMR with a subsequent milk yield increase of 2.7 litres per cow!

For more information about any of United Molasses GB's extensive product range please contact us on 0151 955 4850 or simply visit us at www.unitedmolasses.com.