

# ALL THINGS MOLASSES newsletter

## ON FARM SUMMER FOCUS

### Remember to add the sweetness to your buffer feed this summer with molasses

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**Maximising milk yields when cows are summer grazing requires the right combination of nutrients to be fed to balance the diet nutritionally.**

Feeding grass alone will not meet this requirement as it's quality will be too variable through the grazing season so a buffer feed needs to be added.

Summer buffer feeds are typically based on 1st or 2nd cut silages with other complementary feeds such as molasses added to get the nutrient levels correctly balanced. Rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (RFC's) are essential to a balanced diet and molasses supplies them in abundance in the form of sugars. In addition to being a great source of RFC's the "sticky" liquid properties of molasses help to make the buffer feed more palatable to eat which will improve Dry Matter Intakes across a herd.

I looked at comparing 3 typical summer dairy diets, one based on just grazing and 2 with buffer feeds with 0.75kg **Caneflow** molasses included in the 3rd diet. I found that adding a buffer feed increased milk yields over just grazing but only the buffer feed including molasses had enough sugars present to effectively balance the diet (see table A\*).

**TABLE A: DIET COMPARISON DATA WITH AND WITHOUT BUFFER FEEDS**

	DIET 1	DIET 2	DIET 3
	Grazing + Hi Mag Minerals	Grazing + Buffer feed 1st and 2nd cut 50:50 Silage + Ground Maize + Soya Hulls	Grazing + Buffer feed 1st and 2nd 50:50 Silage + Ground Maize + Soya Hulls + <b>Caneflow</b>
Total DM Intake (kg)	13.06	16.10	16.20
Forage DM Intake (kg)	12.95	13.09	13.09
Sugars (% DM)	8.15	5.95	8.06
Predicted Milk Yield from DyNE	14.76	20.20	20.40
Cost / Litre (P) Milk Yield from DyNE	5.28	11.20	11
Margin / Cow / Day Based on Milk Price 45p	£5.84	£6.83	£6.94

In addition to ensuring enough sugars are present, the diet including Caneflow molasses also projects higher milk yields at a lower cost per litre and thus a better margin return, confirming the importance of having the right levels of RFCs present for the most cost effective milk production on farm. This data has been produced using the average silage data from 2021 and Trouw Nutrition are reporting the early results for 1st cut 2022 are trending lower in sugars and higher in NDF than last year so the potential benefits of molasses maybe even greater this summer. For more information about our **Caneflow** product or any of our other farm molasses liquids please call us on 0151 955 4850 or visit [unitedmolasses.com](http://unitedmolasses.com).

\* Basis June 2022 feed prices. Silage analysis quality based on 2021 data supplied by Trouw Nutrition. All diet data produced using Ultramix by AGM Systems.