

ALL THINGS MOLASSES newsletter

Welcome to the latest edition of United Molasses GB's All Things Molasses newsletter where we look at the importance of adding sugars to get the best milk yields from grass silage based diets this winter, and we also have an exciting update about our GB team.

ON FARM FOCUS

Add Molasses to maximise your home grown forage returns!

BY MARK FEW, UMGB PRODUCT MANAGER AND RICHARD COLLEY, FARM CONSULTANT AT COLLEY BEEF AGRI

Farmers Weekly magazine conducted a survey amongst UK dairy farmers a couple of years ago and found that 98% of the respondents wanted to achieve higher milk yields and production from their home grown forage.

In order to increase milk yields from forage you need to feed it to cattle in a balanced diet that encourages intakes and minimises waste, however we expect this to be challenging this winter based on the variable quality results reported for first and second cut grass silage by Trouw Nutrition GB (see table 1).

"Looking at the 2022 first and second cut grass silage analysis published by Trouw Nutrition GB it clearly shows lower energy and sugars and higher neutral detergent fibre (NDF) trends than we would typically see from first cut results" says Richard Colley. "The challenge with feeding grass silage with an NDF level above 42% is that it is not as easy for cattle to digest so the rumen flow rate is negatively impacted by reduced DM intakes and then subsequently less milk yield" he adds.

Table 1 – Analysis of 2022 1st and 2nd cut grass silage

Nutrients	Early 1st Cuts	Later 1st Cuts	Av. of all 1st Cuts	2nd Cut
Number of samples	648	2635	3283	619
Dry Matter (%)	30.7	30.3	30.5	34.4
Crude protein (%)	15.3	14	14.2	13.3
D Value (%)	71.5	69.5	69.8	69.4
ME (MJ/kg DM)	11.4	11.1	11.2	11.1
NDF (% DM)	46.1	49.1	48.6	44.7
Lignin (g/kg DM)	38	39.9	39.5	37.3
Sugars (% DM)	1.9	1.9	1.9	2
Nutri Opt Analysis				
Rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (g/kg DM)	194.7	189.1	190	204.1
Total fermentable carbohydrates (g/kg DM)	448.2	451.8	451	449.6
Acid load	48.9	46.4	46.8	48.8
Fibre Index	184.8	197	194.9	179.5

Ref: Trouw Nutrition laboratory GB 2022

MOLASSES NEWS

AgriScot
Your Farm Business Event
2022

United Molasses GB are looking forward to the return of **AgriScot** this year on **Wednesday 16th November**. We will be there in person in the Highland Hall on stand **52**.

We look forward to seeing some of our customers again and talking all things molasses for this winter.



The key to balancing a diet that is high in NDF is making sure there is enough rapidly fermentable carbohydrates (RFCs) present in the diet in the form of sugars to ensure sufficient energy is being released earlier in the rumen for good fermentation. “When your silage is high in fibre the key is to add enough RFC’s to get the rumen flow rate back up so intakes do not suffer. There is enough carbohydrates in this winter’s silage but the ratio of RFCs to TFCs is too low so adding sugars is vital for maximising the overall energy that will be made available to the rumen” says Richard.

The best source of quality sugars to add to farm diets is **Molasses**, and the benefits of this liquid are more than just nutritional states Richard “There is always a concern that adding RFCs may increase the risk of acidosis but Molasses actually reduces it by lowering ration sorting in the feed passage plus with the high fibre index of this year’s silage should balance out adding the additional RFCs”. United Molasses GB offer an extensive range of molasses liquids that would fit well in a TMR with this year’s first and second cut grass silage, and although other feed materials can be used to add RFCs the benefits of molasses go further with the physical attributes of actively reducing sorting and waste and driving ration Dry Matter intakes. You can see how the GB liquids **Caneflow** molasses, **Molaferm 20** and **Nutrimol** compare to alternative complementary feeds as sources of sugars and RFCs in table 2 below.

Table 2 – Comparison of sugars in complementary feed materials

Feed Material	Sugars (%DM)	RFC (g/kgDM)	TFC (g/kgDM)
Caneflow Molasses	65	663	694
Molaferm 20	62	655	691
Nutrimol	40	489	538
Caustic Wheat	3.01	177	595
Ground Maize	2.27	202	661
Soya Hulls	2.0	63	404

To demonstrate how these 3 farm molasses products can be added to a basic grass silage based TMR to raise the levels of sugars to the desired target level Richard formulated 4 dairy maintenance plus 27 litre base diets (1 control and 3 with molasses products) using the Ultramix ration programme (see table 3). “These results clearly show how by adding from just 1kg per head per day of a molasses product the required target level of sugars can be met and the forage quality is now well balanced in the overall diet.

GB TEAM UPDATE

We are pleased to announce that on the 5th of December, David Mills will join United Molasses GB as Commercial Manager for Scotland and the North. David has worked in the animal feed industry for over 30 years both in the UK and New Zealand gaining a wealth of experience and knowledge selling both feed materials and additives to farms and feed mills. David’s most recent role has been working as Business Development Manager for one of the UK’s leading contract feed manufacturers. We believe David’s sales experience and nutritional knowledge will help us to continue to drive our business successfully forward in Northern England and Scotland.



We must also not forget those non-nutritional benefits that molasses brings such as driving intakes, reducing sorting and waste and by default improving on farm sustainability” states Richard. “For freshly calved high yielding dairy cows producing 45 litres of milk plus a day an RFC target level of 210 g/kg DM is needed so adding sugars is essential for these high performance types of diets” adds Richard.

Table 3 – Diet comparison data for Maintenance +27 litre dairy diets

Feed Material	Diet 1	Diet 2	Diet 3	Diet 4
	Straights	Add Caneflow	Add Molaferm 20	Add Nutrimol
1st cut Grass silage 2022	20kg	20kg	20kg	20kg
2nd cut Grass silage 2022	20kg	20kg	20kg	20kg
Ground Maize	3.5kg	3kg	3kg	3.2kg
Soya Hipro	1kg	1kg	1kg	1kg
Soya Hulls	1kg	1kg	1kg	1kg
Rapeseed Meal	1kg	1kg	1kg	1kg
Dairy Minerals	0.1kg	0.1kg	0.1kg	0.1kg
Caneflow Molasses	-	1kg	-	-
Molaferm 20	-	-	1.1kg	-
Nutrimol	-	-	-	1.8kg
ANALYSIS				
Crude Protein (% DM)	16.14	15.92	15.99	16.08
Starch (% DM)	12.32	10.56	10.53	10.89
Sugars (% DM)				
Target 5-6%	2.68	5.04	5.14	5.08
RFCs (g/kg DM)	188	206	208	205
Target min 186 g/kg DM				

The reality this winter in the UK is that in some areas forage stocks will be tight especially in the Midlands and South of England where drought like conditions were experienced for many weeks this summer so the objective of maximising milk yields and output from the home grown forage that is on farm will be of even greater importance. In order to achieve this though with the variable quality of first and second cut grass silage adding a complementary feed to the diet that is rich in sugars and RFCs will be essential and we believe **Molasses** is the best feed material for the job.

For more information about our extensive range of farm molasses liquids please visit www.unitedmolasses.com or give us a call on +44 (0) 151 955 4850.

* All diet data produced using Ultramix by AGM systems