



UM FARM NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019

Welcome to the September 2019 edition of the UM farm newsletter, in this issue Victoria Phillips looks at how molasses can play an important role in taking better advantage of this year's good silage crop when feeding your cattle this winter.

This year is a Grass Bonanza and Molasses can help you make the most of it!

By Victoria Phillips, Apheya Animal Nutrition Ltd



With a bumper crop of silage, and excellent weather for growing grass, there won't be many farmers eating their breakfast this morning wondering if they're going to have enough fodder to feed their cattle this winter. Silage making began in early Spring, and the weather has succeeded in producing consistent growth

throughout the summer. When there is plenty of good quality silage, it may be tempting to cut back on all bought-in feeds; but each year brings its challenges, and there are still opportunities to balance even the very good silage crops.

The fast growth of grass so early in 2019 has, by and large, resulted in plenty of silage, with high dry matter, sugar and protein content but underlying these positive attributes is an increased level of indigestible fibre known as lignin. The more easily digestible constituents such as cellulose and hemicellulose are present in young grass so higher lignin content indicates that the grass has matured quickly, even with the earlier harvest. Cellulose and hemicellulose are digested by rumen micro-organisms into simple sugars which are then used by the micro-organisms as a source of energy, lignin however is poorly digested in the rumen so less energy is produced. For this reason these silages which although high in protein and sugar can still benefit from supplementary feeding with a source of readily available energy. Feeding **Molasses** will provide a source of palatable, simple sugars which can be utilised by the micro-organisms as an additional energy source to capture a higher percentage of the quickly degrading protein in the silage, continued overleaf...



Molasses Market in brief

- Global Cane Molasses prices set to remain high for rest of 2019 and early 2020
- Concern over variable Indian monsoon rains and impact on crop yield
- Poor £ to \$ Fx rates increasing local costs of molasses
- Freight costs increasing due to impact of Low Sulphur fuel as IMO 2020 regulation change
- Reduced EU Beet crop increasing demand for Cane molasses imports.



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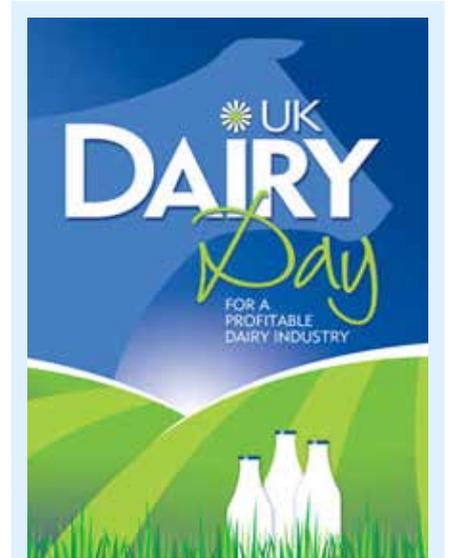
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This has the dual benefit of utilising the nitrogen present in the silage and preventing some of the adverse effects of surplus nitrogen, such as poor palatability and high blood urea. It can be fed easily from a ball feeder, or poured onto silage. Using molasses instead of cereals ensures there is no extra risk of acidosis, and aids palatability with these mature silages.

Finally as summer draws to a close, there is still a lot of grass across the UK, and again, it can be tempting to postpone supplementary feeding.

Autumn grass usually supplies low levels of energy, and it is important not to let animals lose too much condition so I recommending keeping an eye on body condition scores going into the winter. A molasses liquid product such as United Molasses's **Caneflow** or **Molaferm 20** will supply good levels of readily available energy to help supplement the diminishing nutrients in autumn grass.

<https://www.fginsight.com/news/news/challenges-and-opportunities-a-closer-look-at-first-cut-silage-analysis-89380>



UK Dairy Day at Telford International Centre

United Molasses GB will be at this year's event (stand H1-36) on **Wednesday 11th September 2019** at the Telford International Centre, so please come and say hello, and find out more about our extensive list of products including our **Molaferm** and **Nutrimaize** ranges.

Lots of options this winter but which liquid fits best?



Good forage this winter means that there are lots of options available to farmers when considering which liquid to best supplement their diets with to maximise its nutrition and improve dry matter intakes. **Molasses GB's Which liquid checklists** will help you to find the best liquid product to use in your ration by providing a simple to follow

decision tree for grass silage, mixed forage and buffer feeding at grass diets. You can find our Which Liquid checklists in both the paper and digital versions of our renowned product guide **"The little Black Book of Molasses"**. Download your digital copy from our web-site www.unitedmolasses.com today!

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