



Welcome to our June newsletter

After weeks of wishing for rain, then weeks wishing for no rain, we finally have some warmth and sunshine! Unfortunately there is again no Royal Cornwall Show this year, typical as the weather is much kinder than the last time we met you there. We did decide to re create the social part of the show with three small farm meetings, complete with pasties, to catch up with everyone. Covering topics from benching marking to silage making, we hope everyone enjoyed the meetings.



Starch TMR to Faecal

“Why do you collect cow poo?”, “Does it not put you off your lunch?”, “Yeah help yourself, there’s plenty of it!”, these are all comments we hear out on farm when we suggest collecting dung. Normally it’ll be for a dung sieve, but we also collect it and send it to America, yes we specialise in well-travelled cow poo. So why do we send dung samples so far?



The dung tells us how well cows are digesting the feed, one of the main areas we look at is starch. Comparing TMR starch levels with faecal starch levels shows us if the cow is using the starch and if we are feeding enough starch. Both of these have economic impacts on the herd, you don’t want the grain you spent time and money growing or the bought in concentrates going to waste, its just more to spread on the fields. However if the starch in the dung is too low then milk yield, milk qualities and cow health can all be compromised. To have one of the SC Nutrition team analyse your herd’s dung, give one of the team a call.

Silage 2021

With a delayed start to the season for some and an earlier cut for others, the beginning of silage 2021 has not been straight forward. Many are still short on forage and will be looking at both later cuts of grass silage, wholecrop and maize to make up for this. However it is critical we continue to make the best quality forage to feed our herds.

One way to improve quality could be to cut and pick up the same day. On one farm last year this helped keep the 2nd and 3rd cut more similar in quality to the 1st cut and therefore improved forage intakes. Although normally only advised for 2nd and 3rd cuts, some early 1st cuts this year were also cut in the morning and picked up in the afternoon to prevent silage coming in too dry. A topic that would be worth discussing with a member of the team to see if it could suit you.

Other areas where we can help to improve silage quality is by using a fast acting silage additive to reduce losses in the pit. Work looking at the effectiveness of additive on our farms is under-way...Watch this space! The team are on hand for sampling, advice and on farm live testing as the crops are coming in.



SC Nutrition Ltd and Jefo Eazystim Trial 2021

SC Nutrition Ltd have been conducting a trial in conjunction with Jefo, testing a new product called Eazystim. This product aims to increase fibre digestion, leading to improved energy input and microbial protein synthesis within the rumen to boost milk production and is currently being tested on a Cornish dairy herd feeding system. Over the course of a month 3g/cow/day of Eazystim was added to the milking group's total mixed ration. The overall results from this trial were very positive with milk yield increasing as well as improved cow hygiene (shown in the photos).



High Group: 19/03/2021



12/04/21



30/04/21

ness. We do this by Putting the Farmer First and Community.



Mar-21



Apr-21

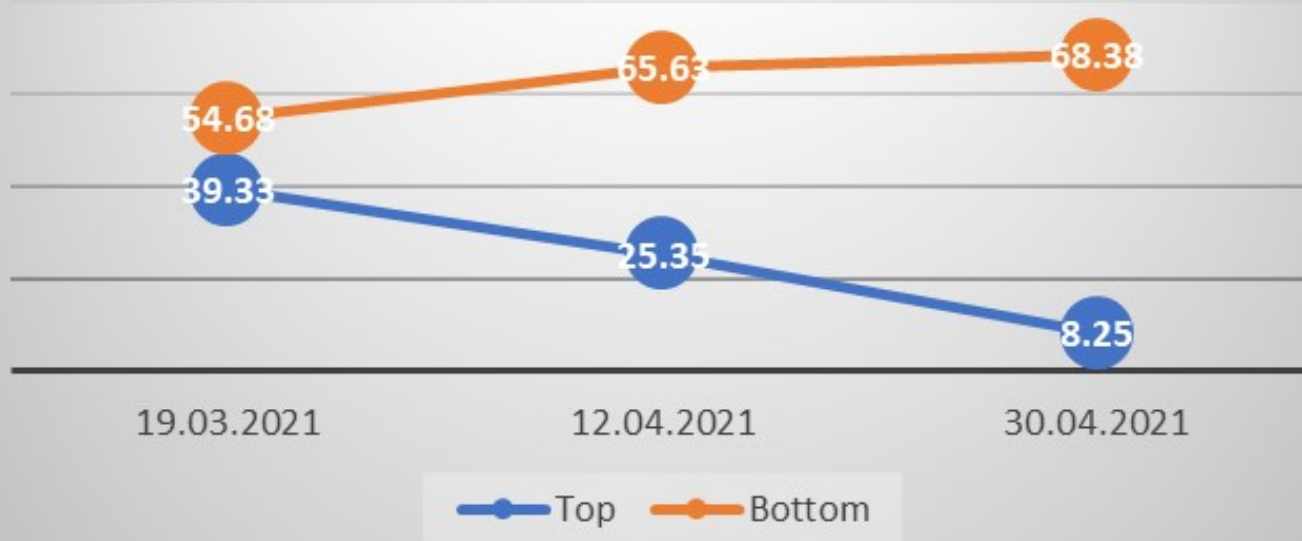


Apr-21



The forage Dry Matter Intake for the High group showed an increase of 3.75kg/cow/day over the month trial period, from 11 - 14.75kg/cow/day. An increase was also seen for the Low group of nearly 2kg/cow/day forage Dry Matter intake. Dung sieve analysis was conducted before, during and after 1 month and saw positive findings, with the top (Blue) sieve decreasing in both groups to under or near 10%, whilst the bottom (orange) sieve increased or remained above 50%, both of which are the desired results (as seen in graph below).

Rumen Health Analysis-High Group



DRY COW MANAGEMENT

With summer now underway we find ourselves already halfway through the year. For many of you this month may mark the time cows are dried off, ready to go on their summer holidays before re-returning to work in late summer. Good management during the dry cow period provides a foundation for success in lactation.

A quick checklist for things to consider!

Early Dry Period (Dry-off to 21 days)	Mid- Late Dry Period
A ration high in dietary fibre content with low energy of 90MJ is sufficient.	
Optimum body condition score of 2.75- 3.0 and ensure they do not get fat.	
Minimise sorting in the ration to avoid low fibre intakes.	
It is very important not to overfeed starch in this period to avoid poor transitioning.	To minimise stress and pen/group moves in the run-up this can reduce dry matter intake (DMI).

Grass in Cornwall



22.4 Dry Matter %

19 Crude Protein %

11.4 ME

42 NDF %

12.3 Sugar %

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