



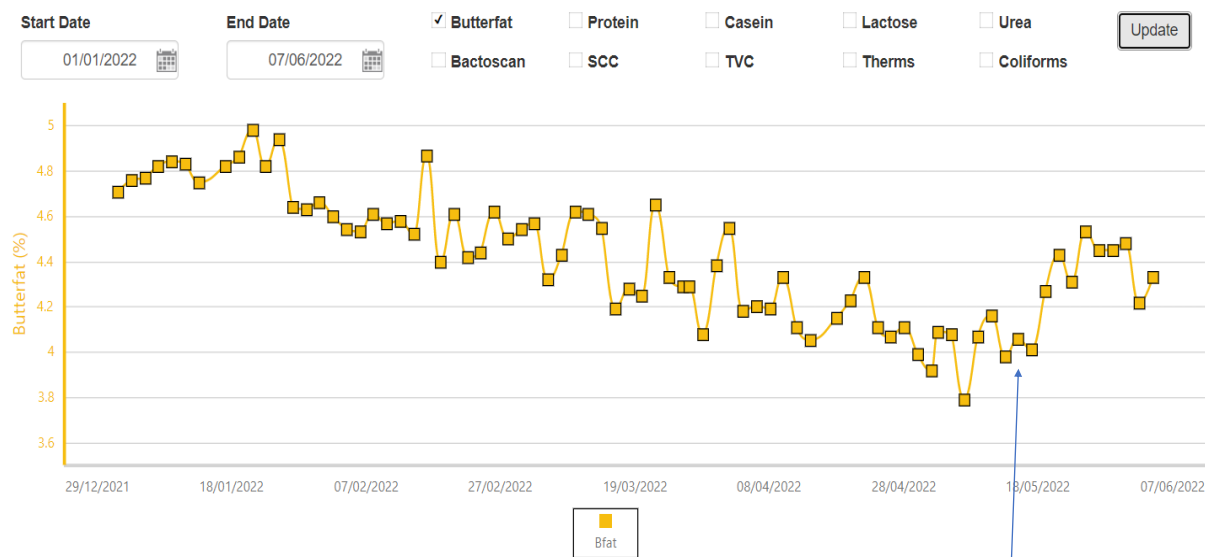
Welcome to our Summer news-
letter, covering topics from dry
cows to butterfat to calves. We also
couldn't forget the Royal Cornwall
Show, where we had a great time
catching up with so many of you!
Turn to the back page to see our
pictures from the show.

Did you know you can also see our
newsletter online? We know some
people may prefer having an online
copy of the newsletter, these can be
found on our website. It makes it
easy to share with friends too.



Do you find when cows are turned out your Butterfats drop?

For many grazers this is a common issue, due to low fibre levels in the lush spring grass and highly digestible material reduces cudging and leads to acidic rumen conditions. So with this in mind the SCN team have formulated a cake which has already shown success on farm lifting Butterfats which balances the spring grazing and promotes rumen health....



Different Cake added here

For advise on lifting up your Butterfats give a member of the Team a call today.

Starting calves right...

During the first two weeks of life, calves receive most of their nutrition from milk. Normally the choice is that of powder or whole milk with the type of milk fed determined by price, availability, and convenience. Calves are generally fed milk twice daily from a nipple bottle/bucket, or open bucket. When milk is fed to calves the oesophageal groove closes and milk bypasses the rumen and is shunted from the oesophagus into the abomasum or true stomach. The groove closes in response to nervous stimulation and is active in calves until about 12 weeks of age.

As a safeguard, in preventing the spread of Johne’s disease, colostrum or whole milk fed should be obtained from cows testing negative for Johne’s disease, or alternatively pasteurized using a batch pasteurizer heated to 65.5°C or for 30 minutes.

During early calf’s life, scours or diarrhoea can be a problem. Often caused by overfeeding of milk or by bacterial or viral infections, scouring calves can lose 10 to 12% of their body weight in water losses along with salts such as sodium bicarbonate, chlorine, and potassium. These imbalances must be corrected quickly using electrolytes, to avoid further serious health issues or death.

Why Calf Starter and Water Are Important for Rumen Development

At birth, the first three components of the stomach—the rumen, reticulum, and omasum have no part in digesting feeds for the baby animal. On eating calf starter and with drinking water, the rumen starts to develop. Calf starter should be offered from day 1 of age and formulated to include very palatable ingredients whilst containing adequate protein, minerals, and vitamins. Table 1 lists the recommended nutrient content of a calf starter.

Early access to clean water increases starter intake and weight gain. Recent research shows, depriving calves of drinking water decreased starter intake by 31% and weight gain by 38% compared to calves provided free choice water. Water enters the rumen and along with high-quality calf starter, helps convert a calf from a simple-stomached animal to one with a functional rumen. In calves, milk is funnelled through the oesophageal groove to the true stomach, not the rumen. Thus, any water contained in milk will not provide water for the bacteria to grow in the calf’s rumen.

Table 1. Nutrient composition for calf starters.*
16-20% crude protein
0.70% calcium
0.45 % phosphorus
0.65 % potassium
10 ppm copper
40 ppm zinc
40 ppm manganese
0.10 ppm cobalt
0.30 ppm selenium
826 IU Vitamin A/Kg dry matter
123 IU Vitamin D/Kg dry matter
6 IU Vitamin E/Kg dry matter

* Adapted from *Nutrient Requirements for Dairy Cattle—2001*

SCN Gold Range

To aid successful calf rearing we have designed a new additive for liquid milk and a new accompanying dry feed.

SC Gold Milk additive - SC Gold can be added to whole milk or milk powder to reduce disease incidence, improve growth rates and reduce days to first calving.

SC Calf Weaner Pellets- SC Calf Weaner contains S C N Gold and is formulated to improve the gut environment to give healthier calves with better immunity, higher growth rate and reduced days to first calving.



Some usual and unusual dry cow topics...

As we get into the summer many of our farms will be thinking about the new calving season, with dry cow management key to it's success. If you are autumn block calving or an all year round herd, it is a critical time in the cow's annual cycle, setting her up for her next lactation.

In the lead up to the important event of calving, we have a few pieces of information we thought was interesting to share, ponder and discuss to keep dry cow management improving and at the front of our minds:

- Feed intakes play a huge part of the success of transition, the diet composition is part of this, but feed space and availability are crucial in ensuring the cow is able to eat as much as possible to get her ready for lactation. The recommendation is for at least 2ft/60cm of feed space per cow, don't forget she has a bigger belly with a calf in so more space is important.
- A clean calving area will help with cows coming in clean and reduce any disease or infection issues that could negatively impact production or the next reproduction cycle. This also helps calf health, the calf needs to be born into a clean environment and not ingest any dirt, which could be on cow's teats, to make sure the colostrum is able to take effect.
- Did you know if a cow is heat stressed during the dry period it impacts 3 generations of the herd? The cow, her calf and her calf's calf are all affected, with decreased milk yield and increased culling, therefore keeping dry cows cool is very important for her and the next 2 generations (Laporta *et al.*, 2020)
- Water is important for any stock and to make sure every cow has access without a bully cow preventing water access it is better if there are 2 water access points per pen.
- At the point of calving the protocols put in place make sure everyone knows what needs to happen to every cow to keep transition smooth. When to intervene in calving? When to move the cow and/or calf? When to offer milking cow ration? When to milk? Colostrum protocol? Is she offered a rehydration drink? Having a clear plan makes sure each cow receives the same treatment, from this hopefully every cow enters the milking herd well, if not it allows alterations to be made to the current system.



For any help on dry cow feeding, housing or management protocol, make sure you talk to the team!

Our Royal Cornwall Show

From seeing the grand parade of livestock to catching up with our farmers and suppliers, it was lovely to be back. We had many conversations on how the last few months have been, current challenges and also those looking to the future of farming. This was especially highlighted to us by those on family days out at the show with the next generation taking a keen interest in the livestock and machinery, several from their prams!

We hope you found it as refreshing as we did to hear others ideas and thoughts for both short and long term farm plans, we have some very talented farmers and working together the industry has a bright future. We hope you all had a wonderful time at the show and are looking forward to Royal Cornwall 2023!



Grass in Cornwall



20.2	Dry Matter %
22	Crude Protein %
11.5	ME
37.3	NDF %
10.5	Sugar %

Steve Chapman - Technical Director

07718 086911

steve@scnutritionltd.com

Emma Tristram - Ruminant Nutritionist

- Newsletter editor

07712 165609

emma@scnutritionltd.com

Tori Leggott - Ruminant Technician

07500 205974

tori@scnutritionltd.com

Fiona Aird - Office Manager

01872 278058

fiona@scnutritionltd.com