



We would like to wish all of our clients a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Prosperous New Year!

Silage Analysis

In light of the challenging summer, forage shortages are a common issue as we head into the winter. Where quantity is limited it has never been more important to know the quality of what we are feeding so we can utilise stocks most efficiently and offer the most appropriate supplements. Below is an example of the key information in a silage analysis report with some explanation of what the values represent and what to aim for. To get the most accurate analysis, ensure multiple bales are sampled and samples are taken from the centre of the bales. This means that if bales are of variable quality we get an overall average and reduces the risk of surface spoilage affecting the result. We can advise on sampling and submit samples for testing costing from £22.41 +VAT. Once you have received a report we are happy to take a look and help you to formulate a feeding plan for the winter.

Metabolisable energy (ME): The most important thing to look at - a measure of useful energy (allowing for losses in faeces, urine & methane). Aim for 10.5+ for silage, 9.5+ for hay

Energy		Analysis
D Value	%	68
ME	MJ/kg	10.9
FME	MJ/kg	9.4

D Value: This represents digestibility so higher is better. Aim for 65+

Fermentable Metabolisable Energy (FME): The proportion of ME that is usable to rumen microbes. Higher is better.

Dry Matter: This indicates water content. Hay should be more than 860g/kg. Baled silage should be around 300g/kg. Too wet or dry can affect fermentation and palatability

Intake Characteristics		Analysis
Dry Matter	g/kg	407
Potential Intake (FiM)	g/kgW ^{0.75}	112
pH		4.5
Ammonia N	% of total N	4.2
Pot Acid Loading (FiM)	meq/kg	700

pH: Measure of acid balance; too low (acidic) affects palatability. Too high (alkaline) means listeria risk. Aim for just over 4

Effective Rumen Degradable Protein (ERDP) is protein available to rumen microbes
Digestible Undegradable Protein (DUP) bypasses protein not available to rumen microbes.
Both are important when formulating rations for sheep

Protein		Analysis
Crude Protein	g/kg	130
ERDP	g/kg	107
DUP	g/kg	15.7

Crude Protein: Total level of nitrogen. Depends on crop, maturity, fertiliser and weather. Normal range for grass silage 110-180g/kg, red clover 180-220g/kg, hay 120g/kg

Fermentation Characteristics		Analysis
Sugar	g/kg	81
Acetic Acid	g/kg	5.0
Butyric Acid	g/kg	2.1

Acetic Acid and Butyric Acid both indicate secondary fermentation, spoilage and reduced palatability - aim for as low as possible

Watery Mouth Survey and Prize Draw

Do you have experience in dealing with Watery Mouth Disease in your flock? Would you like to talk about your experience and help improve the treatment of the disease? The University of Bristol, as part of Arwain DGC, are researching Watery Mouth in order to improve prevention and treatment in Welsh Flocks. The survey takes 10 minutes of your time to complete and you will be in with a chance of winning a Shearwell EID Reader Bundle worth £775!

<https://app.onlinesurveys.jisc.ac.uk/s/svs/watery-mouth-disease>



Alzheimer's Society Christmas Charity Raffle

We are running a raffle in aid of Alzheimer's Society and have some amazing prizes thanks to some very generous donations. Prizes include a £50 M&S voucher from Vetsonic, a box of lamb boluses for Agrimin, a tour for two for Silver Circle Gin Distillery, a £50 voucher from Ridgeline, a toy tractor from Riverlea, a goodie bag from DeLaval and two Intracare Repiderma sprays from Agrihealth.

Tickets are available to purchase from reception and the raffle will be drawn on 19th December.

Our chosen charity for next year will be **Monmouthshire Rural Support Centre**. We will keep you posted about our up and coming fundraisers.

University of Surrey Vet Students

We are proud to announce our new partnership with the University of Surrey Veterinary School to provide farm animal placements for their final-year students. We are enthusiastic about helping to shape and train the future generation of vets in farm animal medicine. We will be hosting two students in January, April, and October of 2026.

Christmas Opening Hours

Christmas Eve 8.15 - 1pm
Christmas Day CLOSED
Boxing Day CLOSED

Monday 29th December 8.15am - 5.30pm
Tuesday 30th December 8.15am - 5.30pm
New Year's Eve 8.15am - 1pm
New Year's Day CLOSED
Friday 2nd January 8.15 - 5.30pm

Bird Flu Restrictions

From 13th November, mandatory housing measures were introduced in Wales as part of the Avian Influenza Prevention Zone.

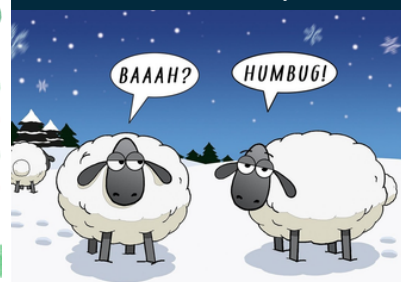
From this date:

- It is a legal requirement for all keepers of 50 or more birds of any species to house them
- Mandatory housing will also apply to flocks of less than 50 birds of any species if eggs or poultry products are sold or given away
- Additional biosecurity measures for gamebirds are also being introduced

FerAppease

Maternal Bovine Appeasing Substance (mBAS) is a naturally occurring pheromone which functions to reduce the impact of stress and the production of the stress hormone cortisol. FerAppease uses a synthetic analogue of the mBAS, specifically created to mitigate stress in healthy calves and adult cattle. Applied as a topical application to the skin above the muzzle and in the divot behind the poll, FerAppease can be used on healthy cattle when any routine on-farm task can raise stress levels.

The response has been shown within 30 minutes of application and lasts at least 14 days. We have had positive feedback from clients who have tried it on their stock. For more information please call the office.



FerAppease
MATERNAL BOVINE APPEASING SUBSTANCE