

Newsletter June 2019

Chlorates

Chlorate is a residue that can be tested for in finished products similar to trichloromethane (TCMs).

Chlorate is formed in detergents containing chlorine. Chlorate in milk is of particular concern for infant formula manufacturers as there are strict limits of acceptable chlorate levels in finished product.

There are a number of key factors that influence chlorate levels in detergents and subsequently in milk.

1. The chlorine percentage of the product
2. The storage duration of the product (i.e. the levels of chlorate increase over time as the chlorine breaks down)
3. Storage conditions – detergents stored outdoor around yards will have an increased chlorate level as sunlight increases the formation of chlorates in the drum/ barrel.

Solutions

1. Minimize storage duration – purchase products frequently
2. Store all detergents in a cool dark environment and out of sunlight
3. Use detergents with no more than 3.5% chlorine free detergents where possible.



A large crowd attended the quality silage event late last month on the farm of Michael & Sinead Hayes. A large number of North Cork suppliers attended this Teagasc event.

Milk Price

The milk price for May is 30.5 cent per litre (incl. Vat.) for milk of 3.60% Butterfat and 3.30% Protein plus 1.0 cent per litre Supplementary Payment.

Reseeding & Grassland Herbicide on Farm Event

Date: Wednesday 26th June

Time: @11 am - 1pm

By kind permission on the farm of:

Diana & Pat Broderick

Gortdromagowna, Moyvane, Listowel,

Co Kerry V31HH93

Agenda

- Soil Fertility 

- Reseeding 

- Grassland herbicides

 DHM Agrochemicals

All Welcome

Fertiliser for 2nd cut silage

Second cut silage will require approx. 100kg N/ha (80 units / acre) with high perennial ryegrass content swards. New reseeds requiring higher levels of nitrogen compared to older swards. Make allowance for N, P & K values of slurry used. If the first cut didn't receive slurry, then an extra application should be targeted later in the year. 200 gallons/ acre should be sufficient, for 2nd cut silage. Excess potash carried in with silage will lead to a range of problems at the feed out stage next winter. Apply fertilizer promptly after the first cut & as evenly as possible!

Be mindful of over fertilizing ground also. Too much nitrogen in grass at cutting reduces grass sugar levels & increases buffering capacity.

To reduce this risk allow enough time for the N applied to be taken up by the crop before deciding a cutting date. Approx 2 units of N per day are used up by the crop in good growing conditions. All Second cuts should get a bag of Sulphur, to a max of 16 units/ acre.

Weed Control in Grassland

Docks

Best control of docks will be achieved in good growing conditions when docks are actively growing, and nutrients are being transported to new leaves and roots, after 1st cut is an ideal opportunity! When the dock fits into the size of a dinner plate – this is the best time to spray. If seed stalks are seen on the plant or if the dock has diseased leaves, it is better to cut or graze the dock, and allow re-growth before applying chemical. Use the highest water rates on the manufacturers label for best results. Allow adequate time between spraying and cutting silage and grazing for the herbicide to work.

Season Long Dock Control

Use of herbicides like Doxstar pro/ hurler & pastor trio will give at least season long control (possibly 2 to 3 years significant reduction in numbers and re-growth of docks).

Eagle or Prospect work well where clover is a concern. Again these products are best applied in good growing conditions

Thistles

Creeping thistle is a perennial plant and grows mainly from an underground stem and this makes total control difficult with one spray. Yield losses of up to 15% have been recorded but they cause most damage by preventing animals from grazing around them.

Frequent topping can reduce root reserves but will seldom eradicate them, as root reserves can lay viable & dormant for years. This weed is best sprayed with Thistlex, Forefront or MCPA, in June before flowering and may need a second treatment later in the season to control any late shooting thistles.

TAMS 2 Grants

The next closing date is the **7th of July 2019**, ensure you have your paperwork completed well before this date! It can take a few months before you get approval, so it is vital to speak with your advisor and give him/ her enough notice, to complete your work.

Teagasc Kanturk: Tel 029 50886
Teagasc Listowel: Tel 068 21266

Problems with Calves on Grass

It is not unusual to see a proportion of calves failing to thrive compared to the rest of the group, when they are out on grass, at this time of the year. Affected calves are seen as going backwards, despite most nutritional & health requirements being met. At present this particular disorder is unknown as the reduction in calf performance and ill- thrift are difficult to define. Farmers should not be confusing this disorder, with well, known and recognized disorders like parasites and coccidiosis.

Clinical symptoms of this disorder include development of severe mouth ulcers, which in some cases see 50% or more of the mouth ulcerated. Calves will start to scour and continue scouring despite the usual treatments including drips. Severely affected calves will become emaciated and mortality is a high risk at this stage.



Not all calves in the group will be affected, and not every farm will encounter this disorder.

This disorder only occurs, where calves are left out to good quality lush grass. This grass has a high ratio of leaf to stem, and a lower proportion of fibre which makes it highly digestible. The downside to this is that if a calf is unable to digest the grass correctly, it will lead to adverse health implications and hindered performance among young calves. Rumen development is vital in young calves. If the calf's rumen is not sufficiently developed, it seems to be unable to deal with all the sugars in lush grass, and the starch in the nut they are getting.

For prevention of this disorder, management of the young calf before weaning is key. Feed a quality calf starter with straw and plenty water.

To minimize risks in the short term, consider inclusion of live yeasts and buffers to the calf feed, when calves are grazing lush pasture. Rumen buffers stabilise rumen pH and reduce onset of acidosis.