Variable Prospects for Maize this Winter

While initial results for maize silage are encouraging, dairy farmers are being warned that later harvested crops will need careful monitoring. Reporting the results from over 870 samples received so far at their laboratory in Ashbourne, Dr Liz Homer, Ruminant Technical Development Manager with Trouw Nutrition GB says that for early harvested crops, feed value is comparable with the 2018 season. "On average, crops are well-fermented but over 10% of samples received had to be discarded due to incomplete fermentation, probably reflecting a need to get maize into diets quickly," she explains."At 32.6% dry matter, 11.6MJME/kgDM and 31.2% starch early crops have analysed close to last year. Starch degradability is also similar to 2018 and bypass starch levels are good. On average early maize silage appears to be very fermentable with high levels of total and rapidly fermentable carbohydrate. However, this results in an increased acid load which coupled with a low fibre index, a result of lower NDF, may affect rumen health unless diets are carefully balanced."

Overall, Dr Homer believes early maize should complement this year's grass silages well. The high level of fermentable carbohydrates and glucogenic energy will balance the high NDF and lignin values in grass silage, but she warns that the total diet will need careful balancing. "It will be about feeding the right supplements rather than what is cheap. Cereals, for example, may need to be trimmed back despite being good value as there will already be a good supply of fermentable carbohydrates from the maize. Many diets will also require a supply of bypass protein."

While the news is encouraging for farmers who were able to get maize harvested before the weather broke, Dr Homer says the protracted harvest could have implications for feed quality in later harvested crops. She says late harvested crops should have higher starch content but will also have higher levels of both NDF and lignin which will affect how the crops will feed, so regular analysis throughout the winter will be essential.

"It is possible that later crops will be less fermentable due to the higher fibre content, and so diets based on later maize may require more fermentable carbohydrates in the concentrate portion. It is worth mentioning that starch will however be higher so will contribute to fermentable energy. If late maize has a high NDF and lignin content and is fed with grass silage with a similar profile we could see issues with rumen throughput as cow's struggle to digest the forages, so maintaining rumen balance and effective digestion will be essential.

"The key message is to know what you have got in your clamp and balance the diet accordingly. As maize starch fermentability increases with time in the clamp, it will be important to get clamps analysed regularly and to fine tune the diet to maintain optimum rumen health," Dr Homer concludes.

Table 1: Average Early maize analysis 2019

Analysis	2019 average	2018 average
Dry matter (%)	32.6	32.8
Crude protein (%DM)	6.8	7.0
D Value (%DM)	73.6	74.4
ME (MJ/kgDM)	11.6	11.7
Starch (%DM)	31.2	31.0
Starch degradability (%)	80.3	80.3
Bypass starch (g/kgDM)	60.4	60.2
NDF (%DM)	36.6	37.5
ADF (%DM)	22.0	22.2
Lignin (g/kgDM)	21.5	21.9
Source: TNGB		

Table 2. NutriOpt Dairy analysis of early maize silage

Analysis	Maize Silage
Average 2019	
RFC (g/kgDM)	226
TFC (g/kgDM)	520
Acid Load	54
Fibre Index	133
DyNE (MJ/kgDM)	6.90
Source: TNGB	

Workshop on the Trade Impact of Pesticide Residues results in constructive dialogue

A workshop on the Trade Impact of Pesticide Residues brought together interested stakeholders across grain commodity supply chains and governmental bodies from the EU and worldwide. COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC invited various experts to analyse the problem and discuss solutions to prevent major supply disruptions.

COCERAL, FEDIOL and FEFAC reiterated their commitment to food and feed safety through lower pesticide use and EU authorities are implementing this desire by making the use of plant protection products (PPPs) subject to stricter authorization rules.

However, the right of third countries to use a different, risk-based approach for their pesticides' legislation has been fully recognized. Business operators and authorities have to accommodate the fact that there is no immediate prospect of alignment between the EU and the rest of the world with regard to the assessment of active substances used in plant protection products, even if this remains highly desirable.

In the absence of such alignment, there is a need for sufficient predictability and lead-in time for businesses, allowing the supply chain to continue operating. Workable solutions have to be found in the case where the systematic and near-immediate lowering of existing maximum levels would leave business operators exposed to non-compliance and without any possibility for finding operational solutions for the supply chain.

It also needs to be recognized that efficient farming and integrated food systems need tools for securing quality, safety and volumes of agricultural products, as well as reducing food losses. To date, this seems impossible to achieve without developing alternative practices and less problematic plant protection products.

With the implementation of the new EU policy approach for plant protection products, ways need to be found to enhance understanding and convergence on how MRLs should be managed for products that are derived from commodities to which MRLs apply, such as feed materials. The workshop gave about 130 players in the value chain the opportunity to engage openly and share views on the options that would help manage or mitigate the impact on their activities.

IN BRIEF

Nutritionists & Industry Leaders Gather for "Neonatal Immunity & Young Animal Nutrition" Seminar

More than 80 nutritionists and industry leaders highly involved in young animal nutrition from 14 countries came together for the 2-day "Neonatal Immunity & Young Animal Nutrition" Seminar at Biochmen's head-quarters in Lohne, Germany. The seminar aimed to exchange the latest insights, trends, and best practices related to neonatal immunity and young animal nutrition. The benefits of bovine colostrum and colostrum products for the passive and local immunization of young animals was the key topic of the seminar.

The seminar featured eight speakers that ranged from scientists, veterinarians, nutritionists, R&D managers to business leaders who talked about young animal immunity, disease prevention, strategies for rearing, and colostrum collection and processing. Speakers included Prof. Dr. Rupert Bruckmeier (University Bern), Dr. Norbert Stockhofe-Zurwieden (Wageningen University & Research), Prof. Catherine Belloc (Oniris-INRA), Martin Hapke (ISR Food Logistic and Processing) and representatives of Biochem's R&D team.

"Our goal was to bring ideas, trends, and experience to the young animal nutrition community to stress the importance of early nutrition and a good start into life," said Dr. Heiko Greimann, event host and Biochem's Managing Director. "I was very pleased with interest and idea-sharing, and I am already looking forward to the next Biochem seminar on Young Animal Nutrition," he concluded.

Monitor incoming cereal values for accurate feed formulation

Farmers and feed advisers are being encouraged to analyse incoming cereal samples to ensure accurate feed formulation, after analysis of the 2019 wheat and barley harvest showed regional variations in protein and energy levels.

Premier Nutrition's Eloise Lawlor explains that with overall yields above the five-year average, the Premier Nutrition harvest survey has confirmed that the protein of wheat has decreased.

"The national survey results have shown an average 0.4% drop in wheat protein levels, with energy also decreasing by 0.09MJ/kg" she says.

Eloise explains that the general reduction in energy levels isn't surprising, as this summer's changeable conditions have led to higher moisture content. "To compensate for these deficits in protein and energy, soya and fat inclusions may increase in your diet formulations."

She adds that although the wetter conditions witnessed this year have influenced energy content, average mycotoxin levels across the UK remain low.

"Our report has highlighted regional variation and I'd therefore strongly recommend on-going local monitoring of cereal samples. To assist with any ration adjustments, our team of expert nutritionists will be on hand to help ensure accurate feed formulations are maintained."

Evonik declares force majeure for Antwerp methionine production

Following an issue with hydrocyanic acid (HCN) supply for methionine production, Evonik has temporarily shut down its methionine manufacturing plants in Antwerp. Dr. Emmanuel Auer, Head of Animal Nutrition Business Line at Evonik explained: "Unfortunately we have suffered an outage of HCN supply for our methionine production. The supply failure impacts both of our methionine plants in Antwerp. We have decided to send a Force Majeure notification to our customers and suppliers with immediate effect, in accordance with our contracts." Evonik is investigating repair scenarios and is expecting to have a solution very soon. Meanwhile, Evonik is trying to meet customer demand with stock materials..

PEOPLE

NEW APPOINTMENTS

PROMOTIONS

RETIREMENTS

New Commercial Manager for ED&F Man

ED&F Man have appointed **Angela Sutherby** as Commercial Manager, where she will bring over 35 years' experience of the food and feed trade to the role. She joined Cargill in Hull as Customer Services and Refinery Planning Manager, spending 19 years with the company in a variety of roles including new business set up and Speciality Foods before becoming a Key Account Manager based at the Animal Feed site at Swinderby in Lincolnshire. She was then appointed General Manager of the BOCM straights trading business, overseeing a period of considerable expansion. She then moved to SugaRich as National Sales and Marketing Manager of the Biscuit Meal and Bread business, developing and enhancing customer relationships. For the last three years she has worked for Thomas Mawer Ltd, Hull as a senior trader. In her new role she will cover the North of England based at Hull and Liverpool and will work across the supply chain, including compounders, blenders and on-farm sales.

Azelis Strengthens Ruminant Sales Team

Azelis Animal Nutrition has appointed **Jacob Lakin** as UK ruminant sales manager to develop sales of its portfolio of speciality feed products and commodity ingredients for the UK ruminant livestock market. An agriculture graduate from Harper Adams University College, Mr Lakin joins the business from W E Jamesons Limited where he spent six years working with formulations for dairy, beef and sheep rations, as well as selling a variety of different farm inputs.