

# Getting back in the field this spring

Regarding winter crops, this spring has presented us with a range of differing crops following an extremely wet time. Crops near Oak park have received over 400mm of rain since October. This is about 2 inches more rain than same period in the previous year. This leaves us with many key decisions to be made in the month of March. Our agronomists have been out assessing crops recently and here are some management factors that need to be considered in the month ahead.

## Oilseed Rape

Weed control has been good in OSR crops and control is visible from autumn herbicide applications. Crops are quite ordinary and some of the high GAI readings we saw last year are few and far between. Nitrogen rates will have to be adjusted upwards to accommodate for the lack of nitrogen in the crop.



Herbicide efficacy in OSR



Use the BASF GAI app to guide you on what nitrogen is required for your crop.

Caryx™ applications should also be considered at this stage. For crops with a GAI >0.8, use Caryx™ @0.8L/ha. For crops with a GAI of >2.0, apply 1.2L/ha. Caryx™ can also be applied right up to the yellow bud stage at the end of stem extension to encourage braching.



Where crops are thin, rolling is a useful tool to promote tillering. It is important to note you can't roll a crop after GS30 and you can't spray a crop for 7 days after rolling.

## Winter Wheat

Winter wheat crops are struggling, particularly suffering from high rainfall immediately after sowing, however there is also a massive difference between varieties. Graham and Dawsom have a slower growth habit than the likes of Champion, so this needs to be considered. Wheat has an incredible ability to tiller and fill its yield potential, but where crops are very thin, an early application of K2™ @1L/ha will help to encourage the crop to tiller.



Champion Winter Wheat vs Graham Winter Wheat

## Winter Barley

Some winter barley crops have already received some early nitrogen and PGR. The aim at the moment as the crop is in mid-tillering is to keep the tillers as healthy as possible. Barley will benefit even more so than wheat from an application of K2™. Early disease control should also be to the front of one's mind. This is very variety specific, and our agronomist are here to help and discuss all your control options.



Winter Barley in Ballinaclesh, Co. Wicklow

## Winter Rye

Rye crops established in Ireland are generally of hybrid genetic origin, therefore are good at withstanding harsh conditions and formatting a high yield potential. The same goes for rye as for wheat and barley crops in terms of early PGR and nitrogen, and where ground conditions allow, these activities should be prioritized to promote tillering.



Tayo Hybrid Rye @GS24

Don't hesitate to contact us on 059 6481266 to help you navigate through the 2024 growing season.

# Spring Offers

See In-store for details



# Performance of calves reared on 23% protein CMR “nearly impossible to beat”

**Desmond, Nigel and John Fennell have been farming in partnership at Ballyhide, County Laois, since 1947, currently milking 125 Friesian Holstein cows that produce around 6,000 litres/head of milk with 1t/cow of concentrates fed annually.**

The herd is split block calving with 55% calving in the spring from the last week of January and the remainder from the third week in September. The Fennells finish 90% of their beef calves – the Aberdeen Angus heifers at 18 months at 250kg deadweight and the steers at 22-24 months at 300kg deadweight. To achieve these targets, choice of milk replacer is paramount.

In spring 2023, Tom Kane, the sales manager at the Fennell's local Quinns branch, advised feeding Quinns 23% calf milk replacer. In Desmond's words: "I told Tom that if it worked on the calves with first pallet and the price was competitive then he may have a customer for the powder for life!"

It transpired that rearing in spring 2023 could not have gone better. There were no cases of scours and getting calves started on the feeder was very easy, demonstrating the palatability of the new powder. Calf health and performance in spring 2023 was “nearly impossible to beat”. Desmond said “We are happy that all our spring

2023 calves are ahead of target”. There was no separation therefore no sediment in the tub mixer used for mixing the 23% replacer for beef calves that could not be accommodated on an automatic feeder. Ciaran Murphy, of Quinns, explained that this was because the formulation contains no soya protein. Desmond said he could find no fault with Quinn's 23% powder. “Tom Kane is an excellent person to work with too” he added.



## Organic Feed Options At Quinns

Quinns have achieved Organic Trust certification which means we now are an authorised distributor of organic feed. Available now from Quinns:

- 16% Stock Nut (25kg bags) – suitable for beef and sheep
- 20% Ewe & Lamb Nut (25kg bags)
- Crystalx Organyx Mineral bucket 22.5kg (suitable for beef/sheep/dairy)



Farm-O-San Reviva is an easily digestible, highly palatable energy drink for freshly calved cows, containing dextrose as one of the energy sources.

### Benefits

- It quickly rehydrates and replenishes mineral loss in the cow and helps to increase blood calcium levels. Farm-O-San Reviva also contains added vitamins.
- Given immediately after calving, it helps the cow to rehydrate rapidly after calving.
- Farm-O-San Reviva increases the cow's activity and forage intake.



# March Grazing Management

**As calving season begins, it is vital to get calved cows out to grass as early as possible. Getting them out early will give a boost in milk as well as utilising the grass covers that have built up over the winter. Each extra day at grass in the spring is shown to be worth €2.70/day in feeding costs. After a long winters housing, getting cows out to grass will help ease tight fodder stocks. Even though average farm covers are plentiful, ground conditions may still prove tough due to a wet January.**

**Here are some tips for grazing wet ground:**

- Walk the farm on regular bases to identify farm covers and select paddocks to graze based on cover and underfoot conditions
- Observe weather and take advantage of dry periods
- Graze by day and house by night using backing fences and sacrifice laneways
- Ensure cows are going to paddocks with an appetite in order to fully utilise grass and maximise graze outs

**Aims for March grazing:**

- Get cows out to covers of between 1300-1500 kg/DM
- Graze silage ground first, ensuring paddocks are grazed down to heights of 3.5-4 centimetres

- Aim to have 30% of paddocks grazed by March 1st and 60% grazed by St. Patrick's Day

As we move into second rotation grass, the excess rumen degradable protein after first splits of nitrogen can be an issue with lush leafy grass. This can lead to issues with dropping butter-fats as well as metabolic complications such as acidosis. Maintain pre-grazing covers mentioned above and keeping silage in the diet as a buffer can help with cow maintenance and rumen health.



# Feeding Pet Lambs

**As lambing rolls into full swing it may not always be an option to foster lambs. However it is vital that pet lambs are offered milk replacer, it is the safest and most natural means of nutrition for lambs after the ewes' milk.**

When a lamb is born it has a very small percentage of body fat leaving the lamb fully reliant on nutrition to generate heat and survive.

**Here are our best tips when managing pet lambs this spring:**

Lambs should receive 50ml colostrum per kilogram of bodyweight every six hours during the first 24 hours, and they can then be moved onto a milk replacer

Quality milk replacer matched with accurate mix rates and routine feeding for lambs are the key to optimise health and thrive

**Shine Ewe-Reka** and **Volac Lamlac** milk replacer are available from Quinns stores

**Shine Ewe-Reka** milk replacer contains antibodies found in ewes milk specific to lamb requirements.

1. Contains vegetable oils, coconut, linseed oil, soya, palm, and plant extracts to minimise clostridia, bloat and scour
2. Mixing rate at 20% solids dry matter
3. Can be mixed warm or cold

**Volac Lamlac** is a highly digestible, ultra-filtrated milk protein.

1. An easy mixing milk replacer in warm or cold water that provides lambs with the nutrients they need
2. Mixing rate at 20% solids dry matter



**TORNADO®**



We will be installing short runs of fencing using Tornado R8/80/15 netting, high tensile barb wire and horse net.

Jack Bennett (Tornado Rep) along with some of Ireland best fencers will demonstrate a range of skills from props to tensioning netting and what is required to build Tams 2 compliant fencing.

**ALL WELCOME**

Naas Agristore  
Ballymore Eustace Road,  
Naas, Co. Kildare

# Fencing Demonstration Day

**3rd April 2024 11am – 2pm**  
**Quinns Naas Agristore**

Tornado offers fencing suitable for farmers, horse owners, contractors and specialist applications such as Rural Security Fencing

[naas@quinns.ie](mailto:naas@quinns.ie)

**045 876346**

## Liquid Fertiliser Testimonials 2024

*"We have been using Omex Nitroflo Liquid Fertiliser for the past 3 seasons. From an environmental perspective, liquid nitrogen is a no brainer for me. I am applying the product where I want it and where the plant needs it. There is no waste, and the fertiliser is kept to the field and away from hedgerows/waterways. It's also extremely easy to apply and it gives us great flexibility that we can spread liquid N during wet or windy weather when granular application would not be feasible."*

**Mr. Tom Short** | Newtownountkenedy, Co. Wicklow



**OMEX®**



All Quinns Agri Stores, Mill & Weighbridge will be closed on Monday March 18th

