

Weed Control Autumn 2025

Excellent sowing conditions in October have given winter crops a fantastic start to the growing season. Many winter crops are now fully established and at the 2-3 leaf stage. Good weed control is a very important factor in growing a high yielding winter crop in Ireland. Many growers will have taken the opportunity to get on with a pre-emergence herbicide in the settled spell of weather in October. Pre-emergence is the ideal timing for many of our residual autumn herbicides, however if this was not possible it is still very worthwhile getting on with an autumn herbicide if ground conditions allow. Many of the residual herbicide products are still very effective at the early post emergence stage, and can be coupled with an insecticide for BYDV control if necessary. In areas where there are grassweed issues such as annual meadow grass or sterile brome an autumn herbicide is essential, especially in winter barley. While there are some grassweed herbicide options in the spring for winter wheat there is none for winter barley.

Winter Wheat and Winter Barley

Product	Timing	Rate	Weeds Controlled
Flight	Pre-em to early post emergence (up to GS30)	4.0L/ha	AMG, Chickweed, Speedwells, Fumitory, Poppy, Red Deadnettle, Vol OSR
Tower	Pre-em to early post emergence (up to GS30)	2.0L/ha	AMG, Cleavers, Charlock, Chickweed, Fumitory, Poppy, Red Deadnettle
Firebird	Pre-em to early post emergence (up to GS23)	0.3L/ha (Can be applied twice)	AMG, Field pansy, Speedwells, Mayweeds, Shepherds Purse, Vol OSR
Stomp Aqua	Pre-em to early post emergence (up to GS30)	2.9L/ha	AMG, Chickweed, Poppy, Fat Hen, Speedwells, Vol OSR
Diflanil 500 (Only pre-em option for Winter Oats)	Pre-em to early post emergence (up to GS31)	0.25L/ha	Chickweed, Red Deadnettle, Mayweed, Fat Hen, Speedwells, Shepherds Purse

Winter Oilseed Rape

Winter oilseed rape crops have established well in most cases thanks to early sowing dates due to the early harvest. Most crops have received some form of pre-emergence herbicide followed by a graminicide to remove volunteer cereals. If this has been successful there may be no need to apply a herbicide over the winter. Where there are some broadleaf and grassweeds coming through it is advisable to use a herbicide over the winter to remove these weeds. Both options are propyzamide based chemistry which only works in colder weather. **Astrokerb** and **Kerb Flo** should only be applied when soil temperatures fall below 10°C at 30cm. Application should also be avoided if there is heavy rainfall forecasted within 48 hours. Using chemistry such as propyzamide is a great opportunity for farmers to kill aggressive grassweeds such as sterile brome, blackgrass and annual meadowgrass. There is no known resistance to propyzamide. Astrokerb has a wider broadleaf weed spectrum than Kerb Flo.

Product	Timing	Rate	Weeds Controlled
Astrokerb	Before 1st February in year of harvest	1.5L/ha (Blackgrass rate 1.7L/ha)	AMG, Brome, Blackgrass, Wild Oat, Chickweed, Cleavers, Fat hen, Poppy
Kerb Flo	Before 1st February in year of harvest	2.1L/ha	AMG, Brome, Blackgrass, Wild Oat, Chickweed

Congratulations to the Baltinglass Senior Football team on becoming County Champions 2025



Feeding Broodmares

As a mare moves through her pregnancy, meeting her nutritional needs to support foetal growth and skeletal development is essential. A diet that is well-balanced will provide nutrients that can ensure optimum health and growth are achieved in the foal.

If mares are on good grass coming up to foaling it's important to control this grass to ensure the mare doesn't become overweight. Controlled grazing methods such as strip grazing or adjusting stocking rates will control the input of grass into the diet.

The demands for nutrients will increase as the mare enters the last 3 month of gestation. Digestible energy, good quality protein and essential mineral sources are key at this time.

All of our equine mixes are based around maximising the use of our **Premium Irish Oats** which are dried, clipped, screened and cleaned. These are IGAs approved and grown on a premium

contract by our growers in Leinster. We take pride in maximising the use of the best of Irish grown oats as it is an excellent, safe cereal to feed.

Quinn's Stud Cubes are the perfect option for mares coming up to foaling this winter season. It contains our Premium Irish Oats alongside quality protein and fibres sources to make up a well-balanced cube to suit the mare's needs. It includes a complete mineral package full of Vitamins and trace minerals to achieve optimum thrive. Also included is YeaSacc, a buffer to help with digestive upsets, protected copper to support healthy connective tissues. It is an ideal option for driving foetal growth alongside milk yield and quality.

For more information on our Equine Feed range please contact your local branch or agri sales representative.



Feeding Brassica's this winter

Forage crops have been a popular option on farms for the past number of years. Under ACRES scheme tillage farmers are required to sow cover crops enabling them to improve soil structure and crop productivity whilst providing extended grazing for cattle and sheep. Farmers that have sown cover crops under ACRES may not be able to graze these crops until January 1st, however there are plenty of farmers outside of this scheme that are grazing these crops already.

These forage crops include Kale, fodder rape, stubble turnips and swedes and whilst all have been popular options on farm, they are not without risk. Below are 10 management tips to be aware of when feeding brassica's.

1. Brassica's must make up no more than 70% of the diet, the other 30% must be a forage, i.e. hay/ silage.
2. Introduce animals to brassica's gradually over a 10 day period.
3. Feeding brassica's in frosty conditions is dangerous and must thaw out before being fed.
4. Crops should be grazed out before flowering, as they can be poisonous and cause Haemolytic Anaemia (nutritional red water)
5. Do not turn hungry stock out to brassicas as they may gorge themselves and cause rumen issues
6. Graze the crops in long narrow strips, this will ensure less waste and enable all animals to graze at the same time
7. Have two fences in front of the animals in case they break through the first fence.
8. Stock should have access to a dry runback with plenty of shelter provided.
9. Brassica's are low in minerals especially iodine therefore always provide a mineral block, bucket or bolus containing goitrogens.
10. Remove dry cows 4-5 weeks before calving to prevent issues with milk fever.
11. Vaccination – Ensure all grazing stock are vaccinated for clostridial diseases.

The table below is a simple way of calculating the daily feed allocation for a 270kg weanling with a total intake of 8kg of dry matter per day. It is based on a crop with a yield of 10T DM/ha and with a utilisation of 80%.

		Example based on a 270kg weanling requiring 8kg DM/da	Your livestock and fodder crop requirements
1	Livestock Total Intake (Estimate total daily intake on the basis of a dry matter requirement of 3% of liveweight)	8kg DM/day	
2	Brassica % of Diet (How much of the diet will be grazed brassica?)	70%	
3	Brassica Daily Requirement (Box 1 x Box 2)	5.6kg DM	
4	Number of Livestock	25	
5	Daily Requirement from Brassica (Box 3 x Box 4)	140kg DM	
6	Estimated Crop DM yeild/m ²	0.8kg DM/m ²	
7	Total Daily Grazing Area Required (Box 5/Box 6)	175m ² of Brassica	
8	Length of Feed Face	120 m	
9	Fence to be Moved (Box 7/Box 8)	1.5m/day	

As mentioned, Brassicas are low in minerals essential for growth and production so it is important to provide all grazing stock with access to minerals such as Iodine, Cobalt, Copper and Selenium. Below is a list of products stocked by Quinn's that can be used by farmers when livestock have access to brassicas and cover crops.

To offset low mineral levels in brassicas:

- **Boluses** (long-lasting up to 6 months): Mayo Healthcare, Animax Tracesure, Agrimin
- **Drenches** (fast-acting, lasts 4–6 weeks): Natural Stockcare, Bovitone, Ovitone
- **Mineral Licks/Blocks** (free-access, self-regulating): Uniblock, Grassland Agro, Crystalyx

Elite 19% Dairy Pellet

Feeding high levels of concentrated supplements in early lactation will ensure that your dairy cow achieves maximum peak yield, which should result in higher lactation yields. Essential to optimising intake is the supply of sufficient feed space for every cow (40-50cm), clean troughs, fresh feed and fresh water. It is also important to test the forage (forage beet, maize or grass silage) for protein and digestibility, so we can accurately formulate complete diets.

Quinns Elite 19% Dairy Pellet are our most popular winter dairy pellet; this is a high energy dairy nut with a UFL value of 0.98. The Elite 19% Dairy pellet is formulated to balance silage in winter diets. This high energy pellet includes only high quality ingredients and is well balanced with Quinns quality RumiPro Winter mineral package. This formulation also includes Optigen. Optigen is Alltech's non-protein nitrogen (NPN) source for ruminants. It concentrates the nitrogen fraction of the diet, creating dry matter space for **more fibre and energy**.

Key Components in the formulation include: -

High Inclusion of Maize & Barley	✓
Soya bean meal & Rapeseed Meal main protein sources	✓
Inclusion of Optigen	✓
Inclusion of Yea-Sac	✓
Inclusion of Selplex	✓
Inclusion of Bioplex Copper and Zinc	✓
Inclusion of Digestible fibre	✓



What our customers say about our Elite 19% Dairy Pellet: -

"It was an absolute revelation. For the first time in my almost 40 years of dairy farming, I managed to get milk proteins up to around 3.4% protein. It has genuinely worked for me. It solved a specific problem" **Jim Kavanagh – Avoca**

"The Elite 19 Dairy Pellet has been a great addition to the diet especially in late lactation when buffer feed is introduced and the inclusion of grazed grass drops. Milk protein can be kept high and even increased using the Elite 19" **Michael Fitzsimons - Kildare**

Management tips for housing weanlings

As winter approaches ensuring the health, productivity and profitability of dairy and beef herds becomes top priority on our farms. Management decisions on each farm across the country can determine how well weanlings will perform this winter and into the spring. The key focus while housing weanlings is to reduce stress in the animal.

Some key management tips for reducing stress and maintaining or improving thrive are outlined below:

Good Hygiene – Before housing thoroughly clean and properly disinfect floors, walls, gates and feed barriers to reduce risk of infection

Adequate Space – Provide approximately 2m² per weanling for lying down which will reduce stress

Proper Ventilation – Sheds need to be well ventilated to reduce moisture, stale air and ammonia levels. However care must be taken to avoid creating draughts as these can also lead to stress and respiratory problems.

Health Programme – Consider your parasite programme to control fluke, worms and external parasites such as lice. Also a vaccination programme will need to be implemented to protect against viruses including IBR and pasteurella among others.

Adequate facilities and feeding space – Necessary repairs should be carried out prior to housing on gates, feed barriers and water troughs to ensure everything is working properly. Weanlings require 400 – 500mm of feeding space so they do not need to compete for feed therefore avoiding stress.

Feedstuffs – Test silage to help determine the daily target

weight gain. Mineral supplementation should also be considered at this time.

The key focus while housing weanlings as outlined in the above points is to reduce stress in the animal and allowing its transition from juvenile stage of life to adulthood as seamlessly as possible.

Concentrates required (kg/day) based on Forage Quality (DMD%)

	66	68	70	72	74	76
Weanlings	4.0kg	3.0kg	2.5kg	2.0kg	1.5kg	1.0kg
Finishing Steer	7.0kg	6.0kg	5.5kg	5.0kg	4.0kg	4.0kg
Finishing Heifer	7.0kg	6.0kg	5.5kg	5.0kg	4.0kg	4.0kg



At Quinns we offer nutritional advice, animal health advice, silage testing, dung sampling and plenty more.



Agristore Open Days



QUALITY FEED
EST - 1936



Date	Location
Fri 7th November	Quinns Agristore, Avoca
Fri 14th November	Quinns Superstore, Baltinglass
Fri 14th November	Quinns Agristore, Geashill
Fri 21st November	Quinns Superstore, Athy

Included on the day:

- Supplier stands
- Panel Discussions
- Special Offers
- Free Draw

**Free Silage
Sampling
on the Day**

**Refreshments
Served**

For more information contact: 059-6481266 or your Local Quinns Branch

WARNING **DEC 1st Change to Anti-Parasitics!**

From December 1st the department of agriculture's new **Veterinary Medicinal Products Regulation** will come into effect. Therefore any farmer purchasing anti-parasitic medicine (including worm/fluke doses) will now need a prescription. There will be a few changes for

farmers purchasing these products in any agri-store - products will no longer be on display or accessible, there will be no promotions/pricing allowed and a veterinary prescription will be required. However, despite these changes please be assured that from December 1st Quinns will be able to provide this service (via a remote vet) and continue to sell you anti-parasitics. Until Dec 1st it is business as usual for sales of anti-parasitics.

