



DN NEWSLETTER

issue 32

In simple terms, the efficiency of fertility in a beef suckler herd can be defined as achieving the maximum output (kg) of saleable beef per breeding cow per year. Therefore any contributing factor that can prevent a cow from conceiving, carrying a calf to term, delivering a live calf and rearing it successfully to weaning will therefore have an impact on the overall fertility of the herd.

Greatest Pregnancy Loss: Early Embryo

- D 30 to 45 post-insemination
- Avoid stress, excess handling
- Transport from D 5 to 45 - Post service should be avoided

Reproductive Strategies

- Group heifers by nutrition needs for development; helping younger/lighter heifers
- Weight benchmarks can guide nutrition plans for heifers
 - 65% of mature weight at breeding
 - 85% of mature weight at calving
 - 4-year-old weight considered mature weight
- Evaluate cow BCS: Score 5-6 ideal (scored 1-9)
 - At least 3x/year: calving, breeding, weaning
- Provide adequate nutrition; protein, energy, fat-soluble vitamins, minerals
- Include Availa minerals all year as these have proven benefits:
 - Early embryonic development and survival improvements
 - Conception rate improvement = 20%
 - Prenatal heifer development: 19-days earlier puberty
- Remember the bulls!
 - Body condition, Availa-4
 - Measure scrotal circumference; apply selection pressure;
 - Breeding soundness exam before breeding season
- Review vaccinations with your veterinary surgeon; Ensure vaccination and herd health program aligned with breeding season



- Synchronize the herd:
 - At least a prostaglandin shot; intensive programs increase efficacy
 - Timed-AI protocols reduce labor and time commitment for heat-checking
- Shorten breeding season:
 - Synchronized females have 2-3 chances in 45 d season, 3-4 chances in 70 d
- Pregnancy check; 45 to 60 d post-AI or bull-exposure
- Cull open females! Avoid proliferating poor-breeders; Open females cost as much as productive/pregnant females
- Evaluate individuals and herd; You can't manage what you don't measure!

KPIs that are useful for initial herd monitoring are:

- Percent calf crop; Kg calf weaned / cow Exposed
- First service pregnancy rate; Overall pregnancy rate
- Services / conception
- Calving interval, days open
- Cow BCS at calving, breeding, weaning



DN Beef Feeds

For beef production to be a profitable enterprise, it is essential to maximise growth rates, optimise fat class & conformation and minimise health issues and losses. Dugdale Nutrition has a range of beef diets suitable for all systems, to take animals from calves, through the growing phase and on to finishing. DN beef feeds comprises of compounds, blends and meals, as well as a range of complimentary products to maximise the potential in your animals.

Alka Finisher

6mm fully mineralised nuts with no supplemental copper. Very high levels of a range of starch and sugar sources to encourage fast and efficient finish including 15% Alka barley. Includes Alkagrain to allow for higher starch levels whilst supporting rumen function and health. Ammonium chloride to reduce risk of calculi in tups.

Prime Beef

6mm fully mineralised rearing nut with 16% protein. Ideal for beef calves and suckler calves and also suits more cross bred type heifers on grass based forages. Contains a range of energy sources to support rumen health and growth rates.

Excel Beef

6mm fully mineralised nut with 15% protein. Contains fairly high levels of a range of starch and sugar sources to encourage efficient finish. Includes Actisaf live yeast also to help with rumen microbes and function, along with Ammonium Chloride to reduce the risk of calculi in bulls and tups. Includes a specialist beef mineral and 0.5% urea to help rumen buffering and straw digestion.

Super Beef

6mm fully mineralised nuts with 14% protein and high levels of a range of starch and sugar sources to encourage efficient finish. Includes Actisaf live yeast to

Super Beef continued..

encourage efficient finish. Includes Actisaf live yeast to help with rumen microbes and function and Acid-buf to help with rumen pH in intensively fed cattle. Contains Ammonium Chloride to reduce the risk of calculi in bulls and a small amount of Urea to help rumen buffering.

3-in-1 Protein

Very high, soya based protein pellets, designed to complement grain on farm. Ideal for all stock including growing and finishing cattle. Good quality product, designed to feed through Advantage Feeders. Mineralised and also includes Ammonium Chloride at triple rate.

DN Blends

Pro-Stock

Coarse mix, ideally suited to growing stock.

Pro-Start

Highly palatable coarse mix, ideal for calves. Includes Nustart.

Speedi Starch

Designed for finishing cattle, Speedi Starch is a complete blend for farms without their own barley.

Pro-Grow

From the Pro-Flakes range. Ideal for growing cattle, especially dairy heifers. Based on DN Progressive Heifer nuts.

Pro-Gress

From the Pro-Flakes range. Ideal for growing and finishing cattle. Based on DN Alka Rearer nuts.

Pro-Show

From the Pro-Flakes range. Ideal for finishing and show cattle. Based on DN Super Beef nuts.



Dugdale
Nutrition



iFeed 
INTELLIGENT FEEDING by Dugdale Nutrition