

Ultravac 7 in 1 – 250ml

\$190.00



Multimin 500ml

\$325.00



Dectomax Pour On 6L

\$495.00



Layer Pellets
22kg Bonus Bag

\$15.00



Ultravac 5 in 1 – 250ml

\$55.00



Genesis Tape Lamb Drench

5 Litres **\$190.00**
10 Litres **\$340.00**

BROWNS SPRING / SUMMER SEED MIXES

Spring Forage Blend
Pasja 11, Puna 11, Astrid Red
Clover, Bounty White Clover



Miller Rape Mix
Titan Forage Rape Millet



Turnips
Barkant
Appin Leafy Turnip



Please consider us for all your Farm Requirements

Silage & Hay Wrap & Twine - Fencing - Electric Fencing - Fodder Crop Seed -
Pasture Seeds - Pasture Chemicals - Drenches Animal Health - Vaccines -
Spraying Equipment - Water Pipe and Fittings - Troughs - Cattle Handling
Equipment - Wet Weather Clothing & Boots

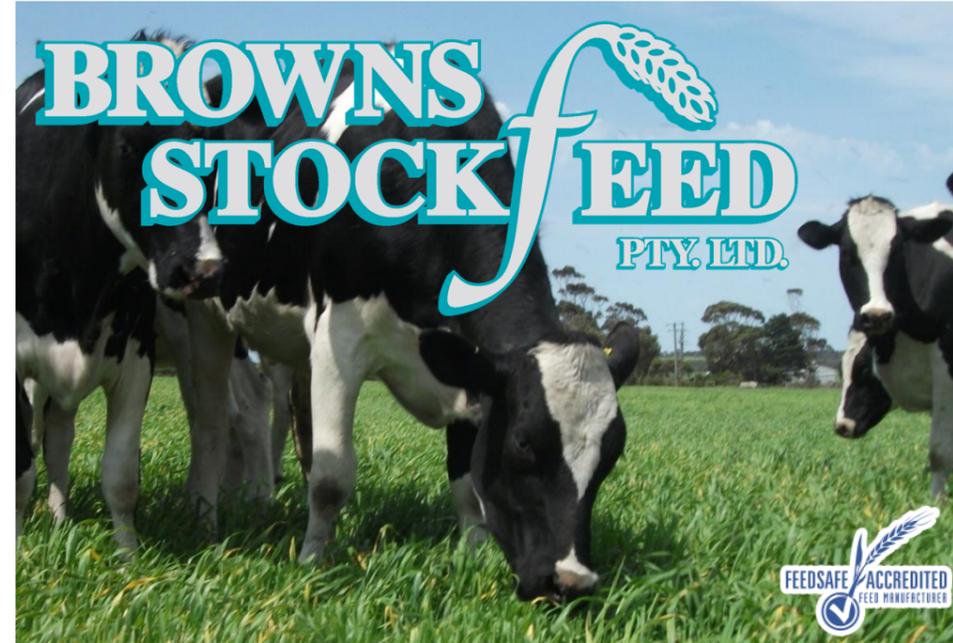
NOT FORGETTING ALL YOUR LIVESTOCK FEED REQUIREMENTS

Ph: 5662 3199
86 Yarragon Road, Leongatha

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SPRING Newsletter

2017



Chris Lawton Sales & Nutrition

Feed to Breed

With spring approaching many farmers will be joining their herds. It is critical that enough starch is fed in the diet to maintain or gain weight at joining. A mix of grains is ideal as this supplies a constant even fermentation rate in the rumen stopping peaks of high protein (which converts to urea) in the rumen. Excess protein not balanced with starch can cause early embryonic death and cows will join and hold for a cycle and then return. This is costly as using extra semen and extending the joining period will reduce the number of cows peaking at the time in the year that suits your farm.

The use of corn as a bypass starch is excellent as the cow will partition this grain to body condition but beware of using too much as you still need rumen starch to balance the protein in your pasture. Usually 20% corn in the mix is enough - be mindful that if you are using canola meal to drive intake and production then cows may continue to lose weight. Twice as much corn as canola is a good rule i.e. 20% corn and 10% canola in the mix. Sometimes reducing the canola during joining is a good idea to stabilize weight- as canola is not only a bypass protein but some is degraded in the rumen so you may be contributing to the "too much soluble protein" situation. Please talk to your Browns tech rep about a customized ration for your farm to maximize conception rates.

IN THIS ISSUE

- Feed to Breed
- Making good silage and use of inoculants
- Common terms used in the industry



SOUTH GIPPSLAND DAIRY EXPO 2017

Wednesday 27th & Thursday 28th September 2017

Come visit the team at **Site 11**



Located at the Korumburra Showgrounds, Cnr South Gippsland Hwy, Charles Street

Silage Season!

Silage season is nearly here and given that a lot of low quality silage was made last season it is time to discuss making better silage. 2016 was a difficult year for getting crop off and ensiled early - so quality suffered although yields were high. In previous newsletters we have discussed the cost of making silage, and poor quality silage costs the same to make as good stuff! It is also more expensive to balance a total diet if the majority of the herd diet is silage that is high in fibre, and low in protein and sugars.



A few points on making better silage:

- Get it cut and harvested as early in the season as you can. (weather conditions permitting)
- Quality not quantity- a second cut can be done later if follow up rain occurs. Better to cut twice and its good than once and get low quality. I remember a season where we got three cuts...
- Silage doesn't need to stay on the ground for days. Try and pick a sunny and breezy day and then there is maximum wilt in a shorter time frame without losing the sugars in the grass. Maximum wilt takes place 4-6 hours after cutting in sunny conditions- after that the "stoma" on the leaf starts to close and wilt is slower with subsequent loss of quality over time
- Aim to preserve the cut pasture to be as good as it was when fresh. Too many pastures we test as fresh are great- and when ensiled have fermented poorly leading to less protein and ME available and higher levels of non protein nitrogen which is harder to balance and use.

- Consider using a good silage inoculant that delivers plant based beneficial bacteria to reduce the pH in the silage quickly, leading to a higher quality crop. Many of the new grasses do not carry enough of their own naturally occurring bugs- so a helping hand to produce better silage is money well spent For a cost of around \$1.60 a treated wet tonne it is worth it.
- Inoculating silage ensures less shrinkage in the pit or bale/ stops yeasts and moulds growing in or on the crop. The faster the pH is reduced by efficient fermenters - the better the preservation of the end product- the silage!
- Plenty of tyres on the pit please. Must be touching .Consider a pit cover as well as the plastic overwrap- especially for maize silage. Worth the expense.
- Harvest the good pasture- don't use the back paddocks that never see a fertiliser truck! You only get out what you put in- garbage in- garbage out.
- Inoculants' are particularly good not only for bale silage (which can be dry and therefore grows moulds) but also for pit silage as if it is wet then Clostridia can grow causing health issues in the herd. Some inoculants are very good at inhibiting Clostridia growth. Others are not. We can advise on a suitable inoculant for your situation.
- Move silage bales early- within a few days with a soft grab- don't leave them to sit for a month and then move them as they have begun to preserve and you risk settling and air moving through the bale
- Make sure you use plenty of wrap- and that the wrapper is set to the same stretch as the wrap If the wrap is 50% stretch and the wrapper is set to 75% then you risk weak spots or tears in the wrap allowing air to get in.
- Store away from trees- and spray the area before you stack to be free of grass and weeds as mice and birds love long grass.
- Fence securely so stock cannot damage them
- Round bales are not a success if wrapped in a continuous "sausage" if they are not individually wrapped first as there is a large amount of air trapped around the edges stopping fermentation. Also- as you use them the end bale is exposed to the air sometimes for a few days which does damage to the quality.
- Last but not least- don't restrict the cows by locking up early and then not cutting until later. You lose quality in the silage and lose milk production as well. If it looks like it will stay wet- then a quick graze to keep quality in the pasture and then lock it up. Your cows will reward you for the extra mouthfuls at a critical time in lactation.

Please talk to your Browns Tech Rep – Lindsay, Chris or Matt can assist with decisions on inoculants, when to cut etc. Pasture can be tested prior harvesting by Browns as a service to you so that you know what you are harvesting. Much better to discuss then go ahead and regret decisions later



LOOK TO BROWNS STOCKFEED FOR YOUR SILAGE/HAY SEASON SUPPLIES



◦ Profile Pack ◦ Silo Guard 11 Applicator ◦ Pasture Gold Silage Inoculant ◦ Silo Guard Hay Preservative-Granular & Water Soluble



◦ SILAGE FILM



◦ NET WRAP



◦ PIT COVERS



◦ BALER TWINE

Common terms used in the industry and what they mean...

Acidosis -

The term used to describe an overload of lactic acid in the rumen. Commonly called "grain poisoning" but it can occur on any acidic /sugar/starch feeds i.e; high quality pasture, brewers or silage. pH in the rumen drops dangerously low and scouring/ loss of appetite/ drop in milk production/ sore feet/ mastitis - cell count issues are all part of the syndrome. - often confused with Acetonaemia which is completely different. Steps to reduce the chance of acidosis include; lead feeding to allow the rumen to adapt to grain, gradual step up of grain ration/Buffers in the feed/ light long stem fibre to assist rumen health etc. Avoid sudden "slug" feeds of anything- from grain to turnips! Talk to Browns tech staff as there is a lot we can do to help avoid this distressing and costly problem in herds.

Acetonaemia -

(Ketosis/twinning disease) - Often confused with Acidosis (see above). Acetonaemia occurs when the cow or ewe cannot ingest sufficient energy to feed both herself and the unborn calf or lamb. Cows/Ewes carry twins are dead cert to

get this problem as the demand on the mother is doubled and due to the larger uterus, gut space for food is reduced. The animal breaks down body fat to supply her energy needs and produces "ketone bodies" (hence the nickname) which have a negative effect on the liver and general health. Tips to avoid; Feed safely and generously as soon as the animal has given birth- avoid starving during late pregnancy too. Overfat animals at calving/lambing also suffer from Ketosis as they are unable to fully utilise the energy they are fed due to errors in their glucose pathways. This is over simplified- but avoid by maintaining a steady weight through pregnancy and stretching the stomach with hay etc so that she can rapidly regain full gut capacity once the foetus is gone. Treatment includes drenches with Glycol/Glucose and a urine test strip will colour purple if ketones are present in the urine. Then you are sure it is ketosis. Drenching needs to continue for a few days and a B12 injection will often get them eating as they tend to stop. Acidosis can occur on top of ketosis if they eat starch and not much else as the gut slows down and so the feed ferments quickly. The double whammy we don't want!

Directors



Chris Brown
Ph: 0439 901 555
chris@brownssf.com.au



Cameron Brown
Ph: 0419 599 558
cameron@brownssf.com.au

West & South Gippsland



Chris Lawton
Ph: 0439 959 899
c.lawton@brownssf.com.au

South Gippsland



Lindsay Davies
Ph: 0428 361 231
lindsay@brownssf.com.au

Gippsland



Matt James
Ph: 0488 623 159
mjames@brownssf.com.au

Call one of our nutritional team direct or contact the office to have one of our nutritional team contact you to discuss further

Leongatha Office: 03 5662 3199 Tinamba Office: 03 5145 1345