



MARCH 2019 SPECIALS

What's on the menu?

Powerpak Pasture Mixes

Sprinter – Annual Mix

A Fast establishing blend for quick autumn, winter and spring feed



Tetraploid Annual Ryegrass



Astro

Tetraploid Annual Ryegrass

Sowing rate: 25-40kg/ha

Supreme – Italian Mix

Exceptional establishment, highly palatable & excellent levels of productions

Concord II

Diploid Italian Ryegrass

Feast II

Tetraploid Italian Ryegrass



Sowing rate: 25-35kg/ha



Matrix is a thoroughly proven, high performing and uniquely different Enhanced® perennial ryegrass variety of meadow fescue and perennial ryegrass parentage, having high ME and digestibility and with very high year-round yields, strong winter / early spring activity, and very late heading (+23 days) for improved quality in late spring. Sowing Rate 18 – 25kg/ha alone or 8 – 15 kg/ha in a mix.



A fine leafed, very densely tillered and late heading diploid Italian ryegrass (+17 days) with very fast establishment and re-growth, very strong growth over all seasons and very good persistence.

Sonik is particularly noted for its strong autumn-winter growth activity advantage relative to other Italian and Westerwolds annual ryegrasses, and has very soft, lush highly digestible leaves. Sowing Rate 20 – 25 kg/ha alone or 8 – 10 kg/ha in a mix.

MEALS ON WHEELS FOR YOUR FARM

Browns are running their Football Tipping Competition again this year. Only 40 places available! Let us know quickly if you're interested - \$25.00 to Join. Places are filling quickly, so please give us a call or drop in to be part of the fun!



RETAIL SHOP OPEN HOURS: MON – FRI - 8 am to 5 pm SAT - 8 am to 12 pm SUN - CLOSED

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Autumn Newsletter

2019

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Drive Production with Dry Matter Intake

The most important decision you can make for your herd is to feed generously prior to calving and as soon as the cow has calved. This is because after calving, milk production occurs before feed intakes have reached ideal amounts and so the cow loses weight at a time she cannot afford to.

Prior to calving the uterus (& calf) take up a lot of room in the abdominal cavity and the stomach is competing for room in there! (Ask any woman who has been pregnant and she will tell you just how difficult it is to fit in food when pregnant – little & often is the only way to eat) So it is with the cow- she needs hay continuously in front of her so the gut is always full- and a suitable lead feed concentrate that supplies the protein and energy required for both mother & calf.

The idea is to keep that gut stretched as full as possible (pushing against the uterus if you like) so that after calving when the uterus shrinks back to normal size, the gut can rapidly expand to fill the vacant area in the abdominal cavity. This not only eliminates LDA's (caused by insufficient feed/ fibre and too much space in the cavity which allows the gut to twist) - but means that as the cow freshens up for milk production

her "fuel tank" is large enough to supply what she needs to eat enough to milk and not lose weight.

I cannot stress enough that quality feed must be offered prior to and after calving if you wish to peak the herd at the production they are capable of. This may mean that for autumn calving herds running low on homemade quality silage that a load of vetch may be needed until we get an autumn break. Even if it rains tomorrow (1st March) it will be 6 weeks before there is feed in front of herds that is enough to fully feed them along with grain in the shed.

The more weight a cow loses in early lactation the longer it will be before she cycles and gets in calf as she needs to be on a steady weight plane or gaining weight to have the best chance of cycling. Semen is expensive so that becomes a

Please consider spending your hard earned dollars on enough quality feed to ensure that your herd does not start the season "behind the 8 ball" as money spent on feed now will reap rewards later. Please also talk to your advisor or the Tech Team at Browns as there are many additives on the market that while good, are no substitute for enough "Doctor Feed" going into cows. Don't scrimp on the amount of feed fed to pay for additives that really work best when the cow is fully fed- feed well first then add other ingredients as required.



Theileriosis in Cattle

Over the season there have been cases of Theileria in Gippsland- so at Browns we felt it was time to write a short bulletin to alert farmers to the cause, symptoms and diagnosis of this disease.

Theileriosis (Ti- leer- re-osis) is caused by a small protozoan parasite that infects both white & red blood cells in cattle.

The Theileria parasite is spread by blood sucking insects, current thinking is bush ticks and possibly March flies and mosquitoes.

Theileriosis can affect cattle of all ages but pregnant and lactating cattle tend to be at greatest risk due to reduced immunity.

This disease has been around in a different form in Africa & sub-tropical areas for a long time with the first recorded case in 1910 in Queensland with the introduction of the cattle tick from Japan.

The warmer global weather patterns have resulted in more humid conditions in Gippsland and more cases have been confirmed. Originally only seen around Bairnsdale /Bega it is now widespread in the "cooler" areas.

Clinical Signs:

- Fever (rectal temps of more than 39 C)
- Anaemia & jaundice- check mucous membranes they will be pale or yellow.
- Drop in milk production, Abortion
- Depression, weakness, loss of appetite
- Difficulty breathing- rapid shallow breaths, cows that lag behind the herd (DON'T confuse with heat stress), Increased heart rate
- Less common signs include: brown urine/ swelling of lymph nodes/Constipation/ slobbering/Diarrhoea

The disease can result in death, however some cows recover quickly. This appears to be due to individual cow immunity and variations of different strains of the parasite.

Diagnosis:

- Get your vet! A blood sample and slide smear will show the parasite. It is important to get a sample early as the spleen removes the affected blood cells will then give a normal result.

Control & Prevention:

- May be useful to use a fly /tick treatment to reduce sucking insects. Check withholds!
- Use new needles for EVERY cow to stop chance of transmission
- Limit walking – keep affected cows close and feed high quality feed and supportive care.
- Fluids & blood transfusions have been successful in some cases to assist recovery.
- Limit buying in stock & stock movement. Theileria can be costly to income on farm.
- There is no successful drug at this stage to treat Theileria. There has been a small trial with a drug but no firm results in larger numbers

Photo & Facial time again

Autumn is always a time when we see some photo and occasionally facial as well - talk to your tech rep as it is better to put Zinc Oxide in ahead of time than wait until you see symptoms. By then the damage to the liver has already occurred. With a 90 day window of safe use your herd will get through this difficult period much better.



Signs of past photo damage on a cow still milking well even though she must have suffered some liver damage at the time of the skin damage occurring

Calf Sheds & Feeders

Now is the time to cast a critical eye over your calf sheds. Ask yourself these things:

- Are they clean? If not then clean out and disinfect with Virkon S as it is the best and safest disinfectant available. Can be used safely in a disease outbreak while calves are in the sheds over the top of bedding.
- Are they dry? No leaks in the roof, no leaking guttering or water drinkers?
- Do they face the right way for winter sun? (North in most areas of Gippsland) If not consider using a different shed as sunlight assists with disease control
- Is there good ventilation – but NO drafts? If you can sit on the floor in the shed and have no cold wind blowing over you then the shed is suitable.
- Now is also the time to review last year's bedding- what was good about it and what needs improving?
- Check feeders are clean and replace teats as required.
- Don't wait until the first calves are on the ground- be proactive and ready to go.



Grain Report

Grain prices over the last few weeks have started to ease, due to falling off shore markets and lack of domestic demand. Suppliers are however reluctant to sell what little they have stored at these lower numbers. We should be able to review our pricing by the end of the month.

The key going forward for prices to continue to drop would be a good autumn break right across the eastern sea board, indications of this however isn't looking at all promising.

Director, Chris Brown

Hay Report

Good quality cereal hays are starting to move into the Gippsland area currently. Quality shedded cereal hays are in limited supply at the moment as the exporters have been busy contracting anything that fits their required specifications. We currently have some tonnage of good quality cereal hay.

Some straw contamination does exist in this type of hay this season as crops were small and a lot of cereal crops were cut for hay instead of going to head for Grain. We are seeing good Water Soluble Carbohydrate levels as well as higher Crude Protein Levels and low NDF levels which is consistent with drought affected cereal hay.

Protein hay is also in short supply although we have been moving small parcels of Lucerne hay and Vetch hay into East Gippsland areas. There is quite a bit of good testing Canola Hay still available in most of the Hay growing areas which is probably the cheapest protein source available currently. Local pasture hay rolls have also been moving into the East of the state from the South Gippsland area but this is now coming to an end as most farmers have cleaned out their excess stocks. If you require any hay going forward don't leave it until the last minute as stocks are estimated to run very short, maybe even before winter hits. If you require any further information or for pricing please call the office.

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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**