



<p>Legacy MA 20L</p> <p><b>\$235.00</b></p>	<p>Magfertet Grass Tetany Block 20kg</p> <p><b>\$30.75</b></p>	<p>Vink Cow Lifter</p> <p><b>\$285.00</b></p>	<p>Steinfort Pelvic Lifter</p> <p><b>\$990.00</b></p>
<p>Polymaster 5 Teat Calf Feeder</p> <p><b>\$155.00</b></p>	<p>Virkon S 1Kg</p> <p><b>\$89.00</b></p>	<p>Stalosan 15Kg</p> <p><b>\$56.00</b></p>	<p>MaxCare Premium 20kg</p> <p><b>\$89.00</b></p>
<p>Deltasec 25kg</p> <p><b>\$64.00</b></p>	<p>Long Fibre Calf Mix</p> <p><b>\$230.00 /bag</b></p>	<p>Wood Shavings 3.5 Cubic m Rolls</p> <p><b>\$220.00 ea</b></p>	<p>MinBal 4 in 1</p> <p><b>\$10.95</b></p>
<p>Gibberellic Acid 500g</p> <p><b>\$68.75</b></p>	<p>Spotlight Rechargeable</p> <p><b>\$45.00</b></p>	<p>Supercoat 18kg</p> <p><b>\$41.00</b></p>	<p>Felix Cat Food Mixed 36 x 85g</p> <p><b>\$25.95</b></p>

## MEALS ON WHEELS FOR YOUR FARM

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

As farms are running out of silage and hay and quality oaten and vetch hay becomes scarce and expensive, many farmers are looking at other options. Some are worthwhile – some aren't so this seems a good time to discuss some of the by products available. Please note- NONE of the by-products mentioned here can be fed without fibre anyway. But... they can be used to "pad" out and conserve what long stem forage you have to allow it to go further.

### Potatoes -

- High in starch-( 50.1 %) be careful of acidosis
- High ME (14ME)
- High in moisture (Only 24% Dry matter)
- LOW in fibre (NDF 22%)
- Protein is low (10.8 P)
- Introduce SLOWLY- feed no more than 3 kg wet and make sure there are buffers in your ration and fibre
- Balance for Ca:P ratio
- Useful addition /fed carefully when added to a mixer wagon (Watch for choke)
- Fed mainly for starch component

### Almond Hulls -

- Low protein (5%)!
- DM 88%
- Adequate energy (10.5 ME)
- "Fibrous" -but not long stem fibre. Must be fed with silage/hay. (45% NDF)
- Sharp edges can cause gut injury so need fibre to "Pad"
- Useful tool for extending silage that is available (add at 5% to silage)
- Limit intake to 1.5- 2.75 kg at the most

### Brewers -

- 23% DM- so wet feed
- Good protein (20%)
- Good energy (11 ME)
- NDF 49%
- Please note- check the cost of spuds and brewers on a "Dry matter basis" i.e. if the brewers is \$85 a tonne and roughly 25% DM then its 4 times that cost (\$340)
- High in Phosphorus and low in Calcium so must be balanced in the shed

### PKE (Palm kernel meal) -

- Higher DM than brewers or spuds. (90%)
- 16% protein (but not all available due to insolubility of that protein- more like 12%)
- High Phosphorus- needs balancing
- ME of 10.5-11 ME
- NDF is high- 63%! So cows cannot eat much before they are full. If you are looking for milk production then this is not the product for you! Feed spuds or brewers!
- \* Same applies to DDG or dried distillers grains

All of the above by products can be useful at times but need to be balanced within the ration to get the maximum benefit. Your Browns tech staff can do this for you as part of our service

## Dry matter intakes in early lactation are critical for better conception rates!



- Maximising the amount fed to fresh cows (Dry matter intake or DMI,) is critical to reducing body condition loss in early lactation.
- When dry matter intake is low- dietary nutrients do not meet the cows energy intake required for milk production and ability to cycle earlier and get in calf.
- If there is not enough quality dry matter in the fresh cows ration, she will break down body fat tissue and use this as fuel to meet her energy demands.
- Result- ketosis, weight loss, poor appetite (which means she eats even less) and this all leads to slower return to cycling and longer interval to re breed.
- Higher dry matter intakes mean less negative energy balance, and luteinising hormone pulses increase earlier, leading to earlier return to cycle and more likelihood of the pregnancy holding.
- Luteinising hormone pulses will not increase until the "energy nadir" is passed i.e. she is losing less weight today than she was yesterday!
- LH pulses need to occur hourly to support follicle maturation and eventual ovulation and the cow needs to be in positive energy balance for this to occur.
- Many people believe it is normal for cows to lose up to a condition score after calving.
- Not true- with a well balanced ration and plenty of it offered to fresh cows there is no need for them to lose weight in early lactation.
- Research at the University of Florida showed that cows with the greatest DMI were those that not only produced more milk, but they ovulated earlier than their herd mates that consumed less, produced less and lost more weight.
- Don't let them go hungry!

- Good genetic merit cows will still produce milk if energy is limiting- but body condition and reproduction will suffer and that costs \$ in the longer term.
- Other factors to slower re breeding include uterine infections, or fluid in the uterus which can prevent Prostaglandin release and this leads to longer interval to recycle after calving.
- So herd health is important too- reducing retained afterbirth's and difficult calving reduces the chance of these factors delaying return to cycling after calving.
- Diseases, negative energy balance, and other health disorders can affect follicle growth and the quality of the eggs that develop inside the follicle and reduced fertility can be the result of these issues.
- A good lead feed program followed by plenty of feed offered after calving will assist your herd to produce more milk, reduce vet costs and increase the chances of earlier conception in freshly calved cows.

**Please discuss with your Browns Tech Adviser the options available to assist – from feed testing your forage, to balancing the ration or adding products like yeast to increase DMI in fresh cows.**

## Take no passengers this season

Right now the opening milk price looks good. But, as usual we then get a difficult season with very little fodder available and high grain prices, and it is getting cold and wet. While the rain will hopefully set the season for a good spring, there is little or very slow, pasture growth at present.

This means that on farm clients need to be hard headed about who stays in the herd and who goes.

Whether that is drying cows off early, or selling any empty cows that are not producing, then that is a decision for individual farms.

With the current price of grain looking to remain high, and slow pasture growth and no conserved fodder available- then keeping cows in the herd producing low litres is not feasible. We used to say "kick em out" at the 7 litre mark- these days it's more like the 12 litre drop off- as cows that are doing low litres possibly with a high cell count are not paying their way.

Better to milk less cows- and therefore able to fully feed the cows that are in the herd and they will produce just as much milk and probably more if more feed is available to cows who can convert it to milk and cash flow.

While we realise that you still have to feed dry cows- they do not require as much dry matter as milkers and can go to a turnout block with rough pasture and some hay as required. This is of course, provided they are dried off in good condition and just need a maintenance diet.

The costs incurred in power, detergents, feed in the shed etc (variable costs), will be less milking less cows- if they produce more as they are then full, then that is a good result. Fixed costs like re payments will still be easier if there is more cash available and not going into low producing cows.

Don't stint on fertiliser, or feed for cows in the herd OR on making sure that close up cows and fresh cows are properly fed. Otherwise the season will start poorly and herds will not reach their peak.

### Hay Report

Hay supply in Australia continues to be extremely tight. Occasionally we see some small parcels of cereal hay or straw coming onto the market, which is very expensive.

Demand is currently exceeding supply for Southern Australia and as of July we have no hay to offer for sale. We may have small lots come up from time to time so contact the office to check availability.

### Grain Report

The rainfall across southern NSW and Victoria has increased growers confidence considering the dry conditions we had this time last year.

There has been some concern throughout southern NSW and Victoria due to the extremely cold weather that could led to an increase in frost in some growers regions.

Wheat and Barley prices are still fluctuating where maize and canola meal are at a steady rate. We are hoping for prices to soften if there is a good harvest but it still remains unclear at the moment.

#### Director, Cameron Brown



**Director**

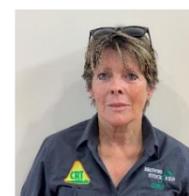
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Call one of our nutritional team direct or contact the office to have one of our nutritional team contact you to discuss further. **Leongatha Office: 03 5662 3199 Tinamba Office: 03 5145 1345**