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**Sustainability**

With intense media focus on agriculture and livestock production in particular, it is vital our industry continues to work towards reduced environmental impact. To this end, ED&F Man is leading the way in sustainability. We are proud to say that **more than 90%** of the raw materials we use in our liquid feeds are co-products. Investing in research and development to transform them into more stable, safe and effective liquid feeds is our way of contributing to the environmental, social and economic sustainability of the livestock sector.



Environmental



Social



Economic

**Along with most other feed stuffs, the Molasses market's firm, key drivers include:**

- Higher Oil prices, leading to increased ocean freight cost
- Extreme weather in Australia, making it an importer of molasses rather than an exporter
- Export bans being introduced in certain Indian states, reducing exports
- Failure of USA beet crop due to very wet weather, increasing US demand
- New IMO2020 fuel regulations (low Sulphur)

However, with variable quality silage and other ingredients rising, we have seen a strong demand for molasses blends this Winter.

**ED&F Man Blends on Rationing Software**

ED&F Man have partnered with Trouw Nutrition GB to develop new and accurate **NutriOpt** figures for a range of molasses blends including our Regulated Release and Glyco ranges. These figures are compatible with the **Ultramix** feed library. The new figures were agreed through the presentation of ED&F Man's research proving that Regulated Release urea degrades at a third of the rate of feed urea, giving a slower release for more efficient nitrogen capture for the rumen bacteria degradation. ED&F Man are also working with **DietCheck** to include our molasses blends within the **DietCheck** Feed library.

This will also provide access to their respective technical data sheets, which provide information on feed rates, key benefits and feeding suitability for each blend. Technical data sheets will also be available on the **ED&F Man website**. For further nutritional information, including **NutriOpt** data and technical data sheets to input into rationing software, please contact **Technical-info@edfman.com**.

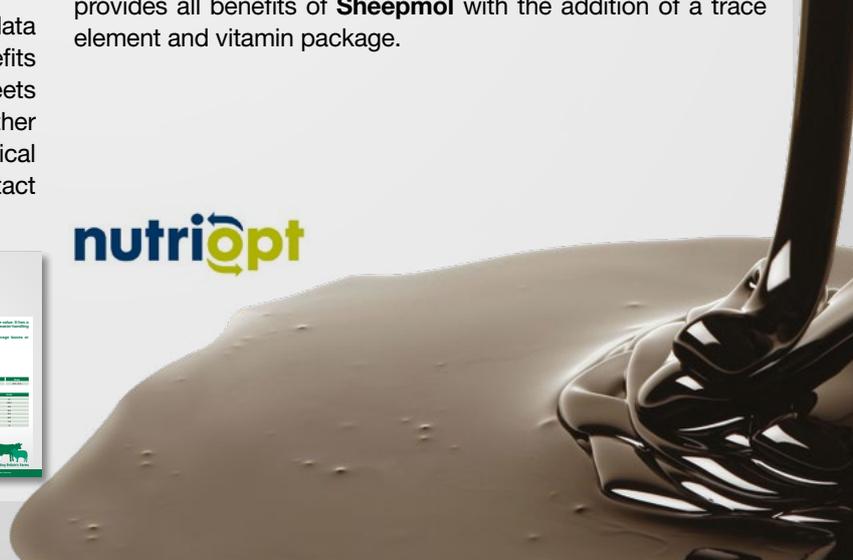
**Pre-lambing Molasses Benefits**

With 70% of the lamb's growth occurring in the last two months of pregnancy, it is vital to ensure the ewe's nutritional requirements are met during this time. To support the lamb's growth, the ewe's energy demands become much higher. If these demands are not met through the diet, ewes will metabolise their own body fat in the liver producing ketones.

If the level of ketones builds up to excess in the body this can have serious side effects. This effect is also known as **twin lamb disease**, which is a serious metabolic disorder typically occurring in late pregnancy. The rule that prevention is better than the cure is particularly true in this situation. By ensuring the diet meets the energy demands of the ewe, twin lamb disease can be prevented.



Molasses based liquid feeds provide the perfect platform to meet these demands. They are highly palatable and have a low substitution effect in the rumen, allowing for greater dry matter intakes, which is vital in twin and triplet bearing ewes where rumen space is restricted. The addition of glycerine to liquid feeds, such as **Sheepmol**, is a high-performance source of energy, which also stimulates glucose production, which is key for effective metabolism during pregnancy. **Sheepmol Plus** provides all benefits of **Sheepmol** with the addition of a trace element and vitamin package.



## Avoid the Winter Blues!

There is a huge variation between and within silage cuts this season making rationing on farm a challenge. The balanced diet being fed in November, with first cut silage, could be completely different with second or third cuts being fed at this time of year.

Trouw Nutrition's SilageWatch report shows how the different cuts of silage are performing on average. The Dynamic Energy (DyNE) values show the total amount of net energy available to the dairy cow for milk production. First cut should be able to produce M+7.4 litres, however, this drops to M+6.6 litres for the third cut, highlighting a loss of almost one litre of performance just through silage variation. By preparing for the changes in the clamp through regular analysis, this variability can be overcome, and the diet can remain balanced.



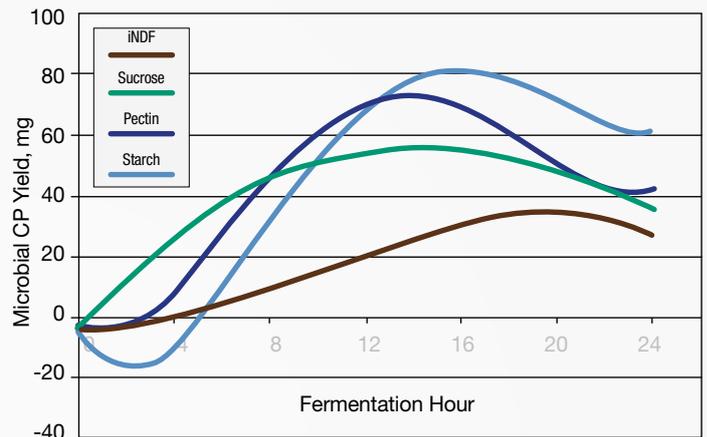
With later cuts this year showing decreasing digestible fibre and increasing lignin, it is important that farmers make the most of what is available in the forage. Due to the increased lignin, the silage is less fermentable this year and requires a form of rapidly fermentable carbohydrate to kick start rumen fermentation and allow the rumen microbes to begin digesting the fibre that is available. The best source of rapidly fermentable carbohydrates are sugars, specifically 6-Carbon sugars that are found in molasses based liquid feeds. These sugars ferment more effectively in the rumen than 5-Carbon sugars that are commonly found in silage.

Additionally, due to the low fermentability of the silage, as well as the lower crude protein content reported by Trouw Nutrition, this

is causing a lower NutriOpt Digestible Intestinal Protein (NDIP) value. This is having an effect on microbial protein production within the rumen.

Microbial protein production is influenced by the amount of rumen degradable protein (RDP) available and the fermentable energy in the diet. Sugars provide the instant energy required by the rumen to ensure maximum efficiency throughout the day.

This readily available energy, provided to the rumen microbes, stimulates the rate of microbial growth, leading to increased microbial protein synthesis. The graph shows how different carbohydrates affect microbial protein yield within the rumen. Starch depresses the rate of microbial multiplication, and therefore depresses microbial protein yield, whereas sugar (sucrose) instantly encourages microbial protein yield.



Microbial protein is a major source of nutrients to the animal and represents around 45-55% of the metabolisable protein that is available to the animal. Metabolisable protein is used by the ruminant for synthesis of milk protein, tissue protein i.e. muscle structure, enzymes and hormones. With a higher yield of microbial protein, less extra protein in the form of soya or bypass protein, needs to be fed. Therefore, by maximising microbial protein production, this will enhance rumen performance as well as supporting cost-effective production.



## Up coming events

5 Feb 2020 Dairy Tech, Stoneleigh



28 May 2020 Beef Expo, Darlington



4-6 Jun 2020 Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge



## Want to know more?

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