

AGRI-FEEDS MOLASSES FARMING CALENDAR

May 2010 – Version 6

SEASON	DRY PERIOD	TRANSITION	EARLY LACTATION		MID LACTATION	LATE LACTATION
Type of Herd	Dry Herd	Springer / Transition diet herd	Colostrum Herd (Calving to day 4)	Milkers (Day 5 onwards)	Milkers	Milkers
Duration	60 Days (Range 60 – 90 days)	21 Days	4 days	80 Days	90 Days	90 Days
Typical Months	May/Jun/Jul	Jul/Aug	Jul/Aug	Jul/Nov	Oct/Nov-Feb	Mar/April/May
Environment	Cold/wind chill/wet	Cold/wind chill/wet/sunless days	Cold/wind chill/wet/sunless days	Cold/wet moving to spring warm	Heat & humidity	Cooler conditions
Typical Pasture Conditions	Lack of feed & quality Autumn saved pasture	Lack of feed & quality pasture	Variable pasture supply & quality	Grass Flush. High protein & low dry matter	Poor growth & quality; possible drought conditions. High NDF/low ME/ low protein & low digestibility	Slowing grass growth, possible drought conditions, falling soil temperature; better pasture quality during Autumn flush; check nutrition profile
Production Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully feed springing cows Provide sufficient energy to maintain cow condition & fibre for gut capacity Prime/ prepare/ stretch rumen for maximum appetite Monitor weight gain (cow & unborn calf) Socialise heifers to home environment well before calving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply an energy dense feed for neonatal calf-energy & growth Supply quality protein, palatable, high energy mix & effective fibre feeds Supply magnesium (sulphates or chlorides) Optimise rumen health & function Set cows & pastures up well for next season Increase gut capacity with long fibre Prepare rumen (microbes) for milking type feeds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove from calf ASAP Fully feed cow, offer unrestricted, good quality feed Provide 100g calcium (limeflour), magnesium Drive towards peak appetite Identify any at risk cows Target: No preventable metabolic disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target: No avoidable or preventable health or metabolic issues including bloat Dilute /minimise excess grass protein Feed to maximum appetite High quality energy before & after mating Monitor oestrus activity; plan mate start date Check non-cycling cows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain production persistency Feed to maximum appetite and maintain DMI Target BCS 4-4.5 at peak lactation Minimise milk decline to <7%/month by fully feeding cows Consider feed options for summer dry; plan for supplementary feeding Cull cows as necessary Grow young stock well Target breed weights as group minimum 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise lactation length (target 305days) while gaining weight Re-gain lost weight targeting mature weight while milking and BCS 5-5.5 Assess in calf rate, avoid phantom cow pregnancy Cull cows to conserve feed Maintain pasture covers
Key Marketing Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain cow condition pre-calving Monitor weight gain Target dry-off BCS 5 with 90% herd >4.5 (same as calving) Heifers target BCS 5.5 Monitor Heifer feeding & LWT Target is ≥ 90% of mature weight at 24months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drive-up appetite pre-calving Target: No avoidable or preventable metabolic disease eg: hypocalcaemia (milk fever), hypomagnesaemia, ketosis Identify at-risk cows Optimise dietary cation-anion difference (DCAD) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise energy intakes No avoidable or preventable metabolic disease Maximise feed intakes as quickly as possible Monitor body condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure high energy intakes pre and during mating Mate heifers with smaller breed eg jersey Maximise feed intakes & feed conversion efficiency Maximise milk production Monitor body condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain high energy intakes post mating Monitor body condition, target CS 4-4.5 at peak lactation Maintain peak feed intakes to maximise milk production Consider facial eczema preventative methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor body condition going into the dry season Target is 'calving' CS at dry-off (CS 5 – 5.5) Consider drought management procedures Implement facial eczema preventative measures
Agri-feeds Products	<p>LIQUID FEEDS: Feed Grade Molasses Himag RuMag300</p> <p>OTHER PRODUCTS: Grapple Hyfat Magnesium Sulphate Rock Salt Rumensin premix</p> <p>MAIZE MINERAL MIX: Magnesium oxide Rumensin premix Salt Xtracal – Limeflour</p>	<p>LIQUID FEEDS: Feed Grade Molasses Himag RuMag300</p> <p>OTHER PRODUCTS: Biochlor Hyfat Magnesium (sulphate & Chloride) Rumensin Pre-mix</p>	<p>LIQUID FEEDS: Feed Grade Molasses Himag RuMag300 RuMol300</p> <p>COLOSTRUM PRODUCTS: Calcium Enriched Molasses MPG</p> <p>OTHER PRODUCTS: Magnesium Oxide Grapple Hyfat Xtracal – Limeflour</p>	<p>LIQUID FEEDS: Cidamol Feed Grade Molasses Himag RuMag300 RuMol300</p> <p>OTHER PRODUCTS: Grapple Hyfat Magnesium MPG Rock Salt Rumensin premix Xtracal - Limeflour</p>	<p>LIQUID FEEDS: Cidamol Feed Grade Molasses RuMag300 RuMol300 ZinMol (Jan/Feb/Mar)</p> <p>OTHER PRODUCTS: Grapple Hyfat Magnesium Rock Salt Rumensin Time Capsule Urea (as protein with molasses) Zinc (Jan/Feb)</p>	<p>LIQUID FEEDS: ZinMol (Jan – Apr) Feed Grade Molasses</p> <p>OTHER PRODUCTS: Time Capsule Zinc Oxide Zinc Sulphate Grapple Rock Salt Rumensin premix Urea (as protein with molasses)</p>
Molasses Balancing	<p>Straw, Hay/Grass & Maize Silage/Palm Kernel/pasture Winter ration: 50% Crop, 30% haylage or silage, 20% straw (+1-2kgs PKE)</p> <p>Feed quality fibre</p>	<p>Target: Negative DCAD pre-calving Avoid high potassium pastures pre-calving No calcium pre-calving unless under veterinary / nutritionist advice</p>	<p>Sugar (molasses) to Balance Starch/Protein/Fibre Dilute excess protein</p> <p>Target: Positive DCAD post calving Gorging molasses can cause acidosis if cows not fully fed</p>	<p>Dilute & balance excess NDF fibre in summer pasture, palm kernel & silages Improve fibre (NDF) digestibility</p> <p>Gorging molasses can cause acidosis and scours if cows not fully fed</p>		
Molasses Feeding Guidelines	0.5-1.0kg/cow/day	1.0-1.5kg/cow/day	1.0-2.0 kg/cow/day	1.5-2.5kg/cow/day	1-2.5kg/cow/day	1-1.5kg/cow/day