

Kennavara Farm Ltd
Arohena
March 2010

We started using feedgrade molasses at the beginning of the 2006 season when we added an in-shed feed system to our 50 bale rotary cowshed.

Milking 500 Friesian cows we started with a 20 tonne molasses tank and last season increased this to a 40 tonne molasses tank when we lifted our cow numbers to 900. Fed twice daily in the shed, each cow consumes approximately 2kg of molasses per day.

Along with the pelletised feed our cows receive twice daily, molasses has helped our cows increase production to an average of 500 milksolids per cow. The cows are in better condition and have shiny coats.

During the spring and colder weather molasses is an excellent energy source and we refer to it as 'liquid sunshine'. During the summer months we can reduce the pelletised feed and increase the molasses without any effect on cow performance.

The cows enjoy coming to the cowshed and the heifers settle very quickly after calving with little effort to get them onto the rotary platform. Molasses has certainly played its part in our overall cow performance, health and condition and we will continue to give the cows their 'lolly'.