



FARM SERVICES LTD.



February 2021 NEWSLETTER



Congratulations to our winner of the Mineral Promotion. **Tom Cunningham** of South Bruce Peninsula. He will receive 1 mt of creep ration at no charge!

SILO COVER PLASTIC

Early order deadline for 10% discount is Feb 26/21

Ask Matt or Susan for details

matt@blfarm.com

susan@blfarm.com

These Bull Markets just keep going on corn and soybeans and everyone says it should bust but it doesn't. All proteins are high due to China continuing to buy US beans and Ethanol plants slowing down because of less gasoline usage. Ontario Ethanol plants are down to 50% to 75% production. The cost of corn has been part of the reason and ethanol storage is full.

Hopefully in Feb-Mar, the bubble will break. I know the Nutrition Department at Wallenstein Feed and Supply is looking at all ways of cutting costs but maintaining production.

Palm Fat products are also getting to be in short supply. Talk to your dairy reps about ordering a bit more so you don't run out.

Our area has been blessed with fewer cases of Covid 19 than the big cities. Hopefully we all can stay healthy until vaccines are more available. Thank you for your business again in 2020. We had huge gains in our customer base.

Bob



FIRST DEFENSE® BOLUS



FIRST DEFENSE® TECHNOLOGY™ SINGLE-DOSE GEL TUBE

First Defense® is the only USDA-licensed, orally delivered scours preventive product on the market for calves with claims against E. coli K99 and coronavirus.

- One **BOLUS** per calf delivers Immediate Immunity
- Easiest scours product to use with most accurate dosage
- Guaranteed levels of K99+E. coli and coronavirus antibodies to prevent disease
- No refrigeration required



- Ready-to-use **GEL** is blue to ensure and trace proper dosage
- Verified Antibodies
- Calf-Level Administration
- Immediate Immunity
- Easy To Administer



5 dose reg. \$74.25

Sale \$66.50

30 dose reg. \$438.00

Sale \$395.00

Reg \$230.00

Sale \$219.00

Maximizing Forage Quality to Maximize Success

Courtney Vriens, Ruminant Nutritionist



Maximizing success

Have you ever thought about what success looks like on your farm? From my perspective, sheep should be able to produce multiple healthy lambs, produce high quality milk, maintain adequate body condition and have good immune health. Ideally, she can do each of these things for multiple lactations, thus achieving high productivity and longevity.

Forage quality is an important part of achieving success on any farm. High quality forage should be the basis of supplying nutrients to a sound feeding program. This is particularly important during times of high productivity, such as lactation and late gestation because it allows requirements to be met more easily, without the need for large amounts of concentrate supplementation. This keeps purchased feed costs lower and also promotes a healthier animal. During times when requirements are low, such as the dry period, it makes sense to utilize lower quality forage to prevent ewes from exceeding nutrient requirements and consequently getting too fat.

Forage quality is influenced by plant maturity; as a plant matures, quality decreases. This means that fiber levels increase and the nutrients and their availability decrease. Each forage crop has a particular harvest window in which the quality is maximized.

Maximizing forage quality

Grass and alfalfa are the most common crops for sheep and other ruminants. These crops are well understood and have high protein potential. Alfalfa quality is maximized in the bud-early bloom stage. Beyond this, protein and digestibility levels decrease and the plant becomes less palatable. The quality of grass is maximized at the boot stage. This is particularly true for first cuttings; grass has excellent quality potential in the spring but loses it fairly quickly as it matures. This is less crucial for summer and fall cuttings.

Small grain silages, though not as common as grass and alfalfa, have excellent quality potential when they are harvested and managed properly. Some examples of small grain silages are sorghum, triticale and oats. These crops benefit the soil and are a good way to increase forage yield/acre. Quality for these crops is maximized at the boot stage and drops off quickly beyond that, hence there is small harvest window to get them off at optimal quality. High protein content is very achievable, but fiber levels are higher than they would be in grass or alfalfa with a similar protein content. This is why grass and alfalfa outshine small grain silages, especially for animals producing large quantities of milk.

Corn silage is a high yielding crop that provides excellent energy for ruminants. Quality is heavily influenced by the moisture level at harvest. Adequate moisture is necessary for proper chopping and packing to be achieved, both of which contribute to fermentation. The best practice to determine when silage is ready to harvest is to select whole plants that best represent the field, chop them and test the moisture level. After kernel denting silage will dry down approximately 0.5% per day and from there you can determine when you should harvest.

Feeding sheep looks different on every farm. Grow and utilize crops that best suit your operation based on your farm set-up and production goals. Each farm has unique requirements depending on their production parameters, the goals however are similar: promote animal health and productivity while keeping costs in line so that profit margins are maximized.

We now have a new sheep premix to replace GLN HP Sheep Premix. Courtney has developed this product for us. **B&L VNC Sheep "Plus" premix (code 782651)**. *Sheep Plus Premix is a versatile and palatable premix designed to meet the vitamin and mineral requirements of both dairy and commercial ewes.*

Features & Benefits:

Organic mineral sources for better absorption

High levels of vitamins to promote a healthy immune system

Contains an ideal balance of calcium and phosphorous

Supports fertility

Cost effective (cheaper than HP Sheep Premix)

Feeding Directions:

Feed as you have been feeding HP Sheep Premix

Can be offered free choice (intake should be around 25-30g)

Or offered through TMR at the level advised by your nutritionist



Lamb Nipples

reg. \$10.99

Sale \$9.99



Shearwell CCIA tags

Grober Lamb Gro

Reg \$49.99

Sale \$44.99

