



# LIFFEY MILLS

## Newsletter

### June 2021

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Visit us at : [www.liffeymills.ie](http://www.liffeymills.ie)

CALVES PICTURED IN KILLEEN, BIRR, FED ON LIFFEY MILLS WEAN & REAR 16% RATION

## Summer Scour and CCN in Calves by Mark Flannery & Willie Boland

Farmers and Vets are witnessing increased incidence of “Summer Scour” in calves. Its causes may be a combination of issues.

Symptoms include:

- ill thrift at grass
- Difficult to cure scours
- Oral ulcers.
- Lack of appetite
- May affect individual calves (not the whole batch)
- Can lead to mortality

There is definitely a link to very lush grass (summer scour is rare on strong grass). This is leading to acidosis in the developing rumen exasperated by high sugars and low fibre in the grass plus high levels of concentrates.

As farmers have become more efficient at rearing calves in recent years and more aggressive at re-seeding pasture, these can be seen as side effects leading to the under development of the rumens. Calves are being pushed to get maximum growth rates whilst on milk powder and so are being fed larger amounts of milk which in turn is reducing their appetites for concentrates and roughage. When this is

combined with lush grass it seems to be creating an Acidosis issue in the rumen.

Depending on the severity of the individual cases, effective treatments include:

- Putting calves onto rougher grass
- Introducing straw or hay into the field
- Feeding yeasts or rumen buffs
- Bringing calves back indoors
- Re-introducing milk back into the diet
- Transitioning turn out.

### CCN (Blindness in Calves) & THE IMPORTANCE OF VITAMIN B1

Calves don't ingest Vitamin B1, but instead it is produced in their rumen by the animals own microflora. If the microflora gets killed or changes then the amount of B1 available to the animal actually drops and a deficiency occurs. Such situations often occur in outbreaks and are associated with calves that are well-nourished inside with milk and concentrates, but upon weaning the transition to grass can often be a sharp one and calves may find themselves on a poorer plane of nutrition suddenly. Such calves are often introduced to lush grass which is high in sugars but low in structural fibre leading to a sudden drop in rumen pH hence killing the rumen microflora.

Symptoms include blindness & most likely occur in the months of May, June & July with calves showing signs similar to Meningitis. The lack of Vitamin B1 actually destroys the brain walls and if not treated correctly can lead to permanent blindness. Vitamin B1 is included in our Opti Thrive Calf Mineral Package.

Unlike the summer scour, CCN can occur in calves that have sufficiently developed rumens, its more from the lack of concentrates and quality forms of nutrition on grass that the calf will develop CCN.

***Liffey Mills Wean N Rear 16% Ration and Cube & our Opti-Creep 16% Cube all contain our exclusive Opti Thrive Mineral.***

We recommend the above feeds to weaned calves and their benefits over traditional beef feeds include the following:

- Vitamin B1 (prevents against CCN) inclusion rate 25mg/kg (half daily req)
- Selenium (for increased immunity)
- Copper 30mg/kg (Half of which is Protected/Chelated) for enzyme creation
- Phosphorus 5% (for bone development)
- Additional Vitamin E for increased immunity, growth & Thrive.
- Levucell Live Yeast to promote consistency in rumen health

Above inclusion rates are all based on a 2kg per head per day feeding rate.

***Liffey Graze Fertiliser now with Sodium***

Sodium is an essential element for animals. Dairy cows routinely expel sodium from the body in urine, faeces, saliva and milk which has to be replaced. It is essential to maintain an animal's water balance for nerve and muscle function.

Symptoms of sodium imbalances include:

- reduced appetite,
- reduced water intake,
- weight loss,
- reduced milk production and pica,
- licking urine

Sodium is lost from the soil via leaching on an annual basis to the tune of 30-80 kg/ha, while significant amounts of sodium is present in rainfall, it can be hard to quantify exactly what the surplus or deficit might be on an annual basis and so as intensity grows on farms,

so does demand and that's why sodium deficiencies are becoming more visible.

Other advantages of spreading sodium on grass oppose to feeding it in mineral blocks is that all cows are ensured to consume it when it's on the grass, and it also acts as a sweetener which in turn will lead cows to clean out paddocks better and graze tighter by choice.

Our team of nutritionists at Liffey Mills identified this need for sodium and so acted accordingly by adding it to our ever growing and popular Liffey Graze Fertiliser. Liffey Graze is now made up as follows: **27 - 2.5 - 5 + 3S + 4NA**. This fertiliser is a liquid coated enhanced Urea that boasts of exceptional value compared to traditional blends.

For more information log onto [www.liffeymills.ie](http://www.liffeymills.ie), call into your local branch or contact your technical sales advisor.

***Replacement film for Round Bales***

No more entangling of net wrap, no more difficulties in recycling. An innovative New Product that replaces the traditional net-wrap on round bales.

- 5-layer Co-extruded Blown Film
- More improved Silage Quality: Silage Film holds the bale tighter so that air is kept out
- More profitable Farming and Forage Quality: An extra film on the bale reduces vermin
- Labour Saving: No need to separate Film & Net when opening bales
- Easier Handling & Storage due to better shaped bale: Silage Film compresses the bale tighter and denser
- 100% recyclable - can be recycled together with Silage Film

Please note that the above product is only suitable to balers that have the specialised fittings or adaptors on them to carry this replacement film. Liffey Mills are stockists of both KORO NET RF & Silotite Baletite replacement films, as well as stocking our full range of TAMA Net Wrap range.

**Liffey Mills's financial year ends on the 30<sup>th</sup> June and all branches will close at 12.00pm on the 30<sup>th</sup> to facilitate stock taking. Any payments received on or before that date would be gratefully appreciated**