



INSIDE ►

Soil tests

The use of soil test is no different to body conditioning scoring of livestock, in that it gives an indication of reserves as a direct result of nutritional inputs.

See page 2

02 SOIL TESTS

03 AGRICULTURAL APPRENTICESHIPS

04 WORMING DURING HOUSING

TOMORROW'S FARMER



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YOUR NEWSLETTER FROM CREDITON MILLING COMPANY

CMC Evolution range

You will be very familiar with the ever-changing circumstances we find ourselves in, especially in farming. CMC are committed to providing you with high quality products that meet the requirements of your businesses and your animals.



For some of you, 2016 will seem a long time ago but believe it or not, that was when we received our first request for a soy and palm free dairy compound! In response to this request, we developed the **CMC Evolution Range**.

Since then, we have had time to test, develop and perfect the Evolution range to meet the diverse range of demands from our farmers, milk processors and the wider industry. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to reintroduce the Evolution range to you.

Evolution

"the process by which we need to adapt over time in response to an ever-changing environment"

Evolution 50

Free from all Soy by-products a range of high-performance cakes available for Dairy, Youngstock, Beef and Sheep.

Evolution 100

Free from all Soy and Palm by-products a range of high-performance cakes available for Dairy, Youngstock, Beef and Sheep.

These products, along with our membership of Round Table for Responsible Soya (RTRS) and Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), ensures that we can give you the choices you need to fulfil your responsibilities to your milk buyers/end users. Our dedicated team of nutritionists and forage specialists are also available to work with you to target key areas of your business to help meet your sustainability requirements. If you require further information or wish to discuss your individual requirements in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact us



DR KAREN WONNACOTT
07783 152450
RUMINANT NUTRITIONIST

DAIRY

POULTRY

BEEF & SHEEP

FORAGE

Soil tests

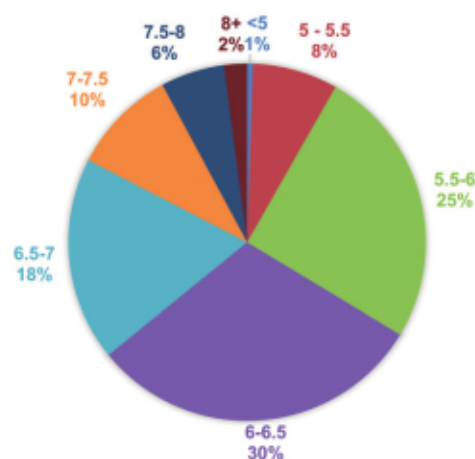
The use of soil test is no different to body conditioning scoring of livestock, in that it gives an indication of reserves as a direct result of nutritional inputs.

The body reserves of the animal enables production to continue during challenging times or periods of nutritional deficit. This is the same with the base fertility of the soil. Without the reserves the ability to adapt to challenging conditions is severely diminished.

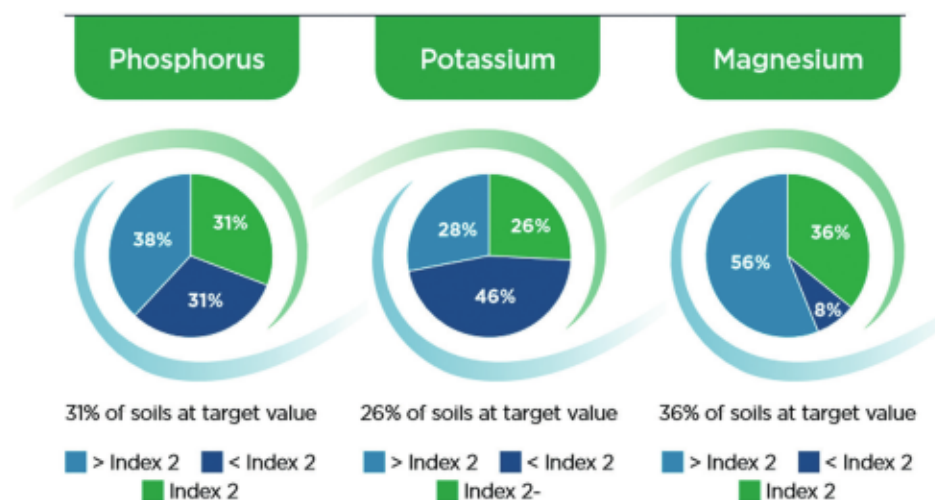
NRM publish their average soil analysis every year, I have included 2 extracts, which illustrates an very interesting trend. The pH samples for the south west are still a major concern and will be the major limiting factor in terms of soil function, response to fertiliser and ley longevity. With 63% of samples running below the 6.5 pH that soil microbes need to work effectively.



pH of south west soils 2021



Grassland



The second shows the proportion of Grassland P and K samples that are at target levels. This is now running at a POOR 31% for P and 26% for K, again showing the need for a change of approach.

As a result of these soil tests you will probably find that a one size fits all approach doesn't fit, with fields having differing phosphate and potash requirements.

Now applying this same flexible approach you could take the option of balancing your P and K in the autumn with slightly different rates on a field by field basis. Leaving you free to apply a straight N in the spring when timeliness is more important and you

don't have the option of 4 or 5 NPK grades for the spring.

Increasing the flexibility of our approach to soil nutrition, will in the longer term increase our soils ability to adapt and respond to varying conditions and will help improve the consistency of the quality and quantity of crops we are producing.

When your soil isn't working properly you are effectively reducing the size of your farm, limiting the output and compromising the efficiency of your inputs and ultimately costing you money.



MARK TUCKER 07703734530
FORAGE SPECIALIST

Manufacturing

Over the last few newsletters, we have been looking at the different areas of the business. In this edition we will be looking at manufacturing.

The Mill production varies throughout the year with feed delivered on our fleet of bulk and bag lorries. We manufacture specifically for each lorry and their load, making 50 to 75 different feed formulas each day. These feeds will be for dairy, poultry beef and sheep farms and smallholders.

The feed is manufactured in different forms depending on the animal. It can be poultry mash, crumbed feed, small pellets for youngstock and poultry, standard 6mm nuts for cattle and larger 12mm rolls for sheep. We have banks of finished product bins which are split for all of the various forms and species.

We maximise our production time by completing Monday's orders over the weekend and then making the following days orders from 7am the day before. We utilise our time by having the mill staff on a mix of 3 shift rotas and permanent days.

We run from 6pm-6am Sunday Night to Wednesday morning and then the second Shift run 6pm-6am Wednesday night to Saturday morning. The third shift run from 10am-6pm Monday to Friday. Whilst days run 6am-4pm. Saturdays are on a rota with each member covering 9 of the 52 Saturdays.

During busy periods we also work Sundays to keep up with the tonnages required.

Once the product is manufactured, we ensure quality with strict protocol of tests. These are visual checks, Holmen testing and NIR (Near Infrared Reflectance) testing on our in house NIR machine. The Holmen test shows us the hardness of the nut, and the NIR test gives us the nutrition values of the finished product to ensure they meet specifications. We also use outside labs to routinely test to ensure the safety of the product.



Darren was recently awarded the prestigious *Apprentice of the Year* award from PETROC college. Congratulations on his hard work.

Fresh Approach to Agricultural Apprenticeships in the Southwest

STS (Skern Training & Skills) have been providing business training for over 45 years and is a main apprenticeship provider offering Level 2 & 3 Agricultural Apprenticeships.

Listening to industry and employer needs, the programmes are designed and delivered to meet the ever-evolving agricultural sector by qualified lecturers. Our programmes are industry-led, and we deliver at venues near the apprentices, with a mix of practical, face-to-face and e-learning sessions. The STS team can support matching apprentices with employers, and advertising vacancies, your assigned mentor will work with the apprentice throughout their programme.

If you would like to know more information, please attend one of the events listed or contact peter.reed@skernlodge.co.uk or call 07585 886306, alternatively visit www.skerntrainingandskills.co.uk

The STS team are holding a number of information evenings this spring for potential apprentices and employers to meet us and find out more.

The evenings are all 7-8pm and will be held:

Monday 3rd April

Hayle Rugby Football Club, Memorial Park, Hayle, TR27 4PS

Tuesday 4th April

Kernow Training, 1 Burthy Bungalows, Summercourt, Newquay, TR8 5BN

Wednesday 5th April

Lifton Community Centre, Devon PL16 0LA

Thursday 6th April

Devon Young Farmer Centre, Cheriton Bishop EX6 6JH

Tuesday 11th April

Skern Lodge, Appledore EX39 1NG

Wednesday 12th April

Maiden Newton Village Hall, Dorset DT2 0AE

Worming during housing

Chickens love pecking about, exploring their environment. When they are out free ranging on their lush green pastures, as producers, we should always be very wary of them exploring those delightful muddy puddles, which can be such a harbour for numerous diseases.

Tucked away, safely in their shed, we can be lulled into a false sense of security, that all of those potential health risks lie outside. During 'flockdown' we may assume that the requirement to worm reduces, as they are not exposed to potentially contaminated pastures, or contamination dropped from above from wild birds.

But this isn't the case, and worming, or worm monitoring should not be neglected, as housed birds are more likely to come into contact with their own faeces, meaning worms are more easily picked up and spread within the flock. A poultry house provides the ideal conditions for worms to thrive, with a warm and damp atmosphere, coupled with a lack of direct sunlight. Parasitic worm burdens can all cause a number of welfare and production problems, including diarrhoea, reduced feed intake, mortality and reduced egg production. Birds stood looking hunched and depressed can be a symptom of this, and it will be these birds shedding their parasitic burden, and spreading the infection within the flock.

So, how can you tell if your hens have a worm burden? The most illustrative way, is a post-mortem on a bird, you can then see the type of worm, and stage of infection. Alternatively regular faecal egg counts can be taken, although it is really important that



these are taken regularly, to pick up the lifecycle of the worm – you may get a false negative for example because the young worms within the bird, are not yet mature enough to be secreting eggs.

Treating a worm burden is relatively simple, for commercial chicken egg layers, worming can be undertaken without an egg withdrawal period. This can be administered within your drinker system, although care must be taken to ensure the correct dosage is provided to the birds. After administering a water based wormer, do also insure that you disinfect your drinker lines well, as residue remaining from the solution can encourage bio film growth within your lines, and lead to further problems.

Alternatively, you can also administer wormer through the feed, and we are able to add this to your ration. This is often chosen as the best option on worm control, as the wormer is mixed with the feed, ensuring an even distribution, and therefore administering the correct dosage to the flock.

The only note of caution, is that for some species of birds (laying ducks,

for example) there is an egg withdrawal if you need to undertake worming, and therefore we advise you discuss your worming plans with your vet and CMC Poultry Specialist, to ensure all considerations are taken into account.

In case you still weren't sure if you needed to worry about worming... just take a look at the photo we were sent the other day, from a housed flock of hens...



LIZ WARNER
POULTRY SPECIALIST