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Your core business

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) is designed to encourage agricultural practices that support the environment, biodiversity, and the long-term sustainability of the farming sector...

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TOMORROW'S FARMER

CMC crediton milling company
Feeding Tomorrows Farmers Today

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YOUR **NEWSLETTER** FROM **CREDITON MILLING COMPANY**

Protein efficiency

and our commitment to quality and sustainability

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In the scope of farming, change is the only constant. We navigate through unpredictable weather patterns and shifting agricultural landscapes, always aiming to balance the scales between profitability and stewardship of the land we cherish. The goal posts are always moving, and processor, retailer and consumer demands seemingly increasing.

DAIRY

Business profitability remains fundamental to the success and longevity of any business and CMC are committed to delivering solutions that can support you to achieve this.

Commitment to Quality and Sustainability

At CMC, our core belief is that quality and sustainability are not just ideals but essential pillars for modern agricultural practices. Recognizing the challenges you face; we've meticulously developed our EVOLUTION range of products. This innovative lineup is designed to meet the exacting demands of your business and the nutritional needs of your animals, all while keeping an eye on the future of our planet. It's our way of adapting to an ever-changing environment—ensuring that together, we can thrive.

Understanding the EVOLUTION Range

Evolution 50

- *Target:* Dairy, Youngstock, Beef, and Sheep
- *Key Feature:* Free from all Soy and soy by-products
- *Benefit:* High-performance nutritional support tailored to the unique needs of each animal type, promoting health and productivity without reliance on soy and its by-products.

Evolution 100

- *Target:* Dairy, Youngstock, Beef, and Sheep
- *Key Feature:* Exclusion of Soy and Palm, and their by-products
- *Benefit:* Builds on the foundation of Evolution 50, offering an elevated level of environmental and dietary integrity, suitable for farmers committed to eliminating palm products in addition to soy.

Protein efficiency and our commitment to quality and sustainability *continued from page 1*

DAIRY

Challenges of Seasonal Feeding: Winter vs. Spring

The transition from winter feeding to spring grazing brings with it a unique set of challenges. Winter's relatively controlled feeding environment, with known dry matters and quantifiable feed amounts, contrasts sharply with spring's variability. Spring's unpredictable dry matters and the difficulty in estimating intakes at grass accurately can complicate nutritional management. Yet, the nutritional content requirements remain high, demanding a delicate balance of energy and protein to maintain animal health and productivity.

The Solution: Evolution Pro

Evolution Pro offers us an innovative solution, addressing the critical need for improved nitrogen use efficiency. This product isn't just about optimising the diet; it's about redefining it for better animal and environmental outcomes.

Evolution Pro will help to:

- Increase intake and feed digestibility
- Maximize nutrient absorption
- Allow you to reduce the overall Crude protein of your diet
- Enhance protein utilization, reducing environmental impact

Environmental and Economic Benefits

Adopting the EVOLUTION Pro range means not only advancing your farm's productivity but also meeting the potential needs of your processor and/or retailer.

Effectively by reducing the CP of your compound feed and improving nitrogen use efficiency, you can be seen to mitigate the environmental repercussions associated with higher protein diets during the grazing period, such as nitrogen leaching and greenhouse gas emissions.
As always with nutrition, careful appraisal of the individual farm circumstances (such as grazing, forage buffers etc.) should be considered to optimise performance.

EVOLUTION

Lamb Price The light at the end of a wet winter

As with every year in the sheep calendar, the rams will go in with the ewes, you hope the ewe holds, nearly 5 months later she hopefully delivers you live, vigorous lambs, you then nurture and feed those lambs through all weathers in the hope that when they are fit to go the price reflects all the hard work and leaves a profit.

BEEF & SHEEP

There's a lot of HOPE involved for all sheep farmers in the process and at the same time battling the elements of what the weather throws at them.

This winter however, has tested sheep farmers and the sheep themselves more than any other, both mentally and physically, with the constant rain that never seems to want to give farmers a break. One dry sunny day helps raise the optimism and team morale but is soon balanced out with 3 wet days in return and back to square one. Although we haven't had any real snow, a common remark I hear on farm is the relentless cold wet weather has really pulled the younger ewes rearing a double resulting in many farmers weaning lambs off the ewe earlier than normal.

Throughout the last 5 months I have spoken to customers that finish store lambs who have spent their winter days moving electric fences on grass and root crops, trying to move hoggs onto clean, drier ground with fields too wet to even get a quad bike in. And then there's the early lambing customers we deal with who's sheds were full of ewes and lambs just waiting for a break in the weather to turn them out, moving creep feeders became an impossible task which has meant their new season suck lambs are probably a few weeks behind where they've been in other years.

Lamb Price – The light at the end of a wet winter *continued from page 2*

The one thing however that has just about saved the morale on the darkest and wettest of days has been the recent, unprecedented high lamb prices that the sheep industry has ever seen. Easter and Ramadan have generally always helped farmers fetch a premium on selling lambs at this time of year but the prices that sheep are currently making have never been reached before. If I had a crystal ball, I would say stick some hard feed into these lambs and get them gone, as who knows how long these prices will stick around for, but long may they continue.

We all know farming can be a very isolated industry, especially in the depths of winter in a lambing shed, or in a muddy field soaking wet through but please remember to lean on us as a company to help in any way that we can, even if its just a 5 minute chat, our jobs as reps are far more than just selling feed. The days are getting increasingly longer and the temperatures a little warmer, so fingers crossed spring is just around the corner and these higher prices are here to stay for the foreseeable.

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RUMINANT SPECIALIST

Focus on your core business

The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) is designed to encourage agricultural practices that support the environment, biodiversity, and the long-term sustainability of the farming sector.

FORAGE

While the initiative is commendable for its focus on environmental stewardship, it is crucial to examine its implications for forage quality and quantity—key elements in milk production. This article explores why the SFI options, though beneficial in several respects, may pose challenges for farmers striving to maximize their forage-based milk production.

The core of SFIoptions

The SFI scheme offers financial incentives to farmers for adopting environmentally friendly practices. These include maintaining hedgerows, enhancing soil health, and improving water quality, among others. While these practices are vital for long-term environmental sustainability, they may inadvertently affect the immediate agricultural productivity, particularly in terms of forage cultivation essential for dairy farming.

Impact on forage quality

One of the primary concerns with adopting certain SFI options is the potential compromise on forage quality. Whilst some SFI practices may limit the use of certain fertilizers, organic manures, the main concern is the introduction of herbal leys which in some cases are less productive than those they are replacing.

In many cases if this is part of the rotational reseeding on farm then this may not be as large a problem, but many of these seed mixtures have only 60- 70% of the productive grasses of your normal reseed mixtures and many of these grasses are not on the recommended lists. So please check as the net effect could be 1 or 2 MJ on your silage or grazing ground.

Effect on forage quantity

Similarly, the quantity of forage produced can be affected for the same reasons as above. SFI practices that encourage a more extensive farming approach can result in lower overall yields of forage crops. For dairy farmers, the volume of forage available is as critical as its quality, as it directly influences the amount of milk that can be produced. With less forage, farmers may find it challenging to meet their production targets, forcing them to purchase additional feed at potentially high costs.

Considerations for dairy farmers

For dairy farmers, the decision to engage with SFI options needs careful consideration. While the environmental benefits are clear, the implications for forage production and, subsequently, milk output cannot be overlooked. Farmers must evaluate how the adoption of SFI practices aligns with their production goals and whether it is feasible to maintain the desired levels of forage quality and quantity under these schemes.

Balancing environmental stewardship and production needs

The key for dairy farmers is finding a balance between participating in the SFI and ensuring they can produce the necessary quality and quantity of forage. This balance may involve adopting a selective approach to the SFI, engaging in those practices that have a minimal negative impact on forage production or finding innovative ways to enhance forage quality within the SFI framework.

We have a full range of options to meet your re-seeding and overseeding needs please, give us a call for help.

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FORAGE SPECIALIST

Infectious bronchitis in the flock

Infectious bronchitis (IB) is a highly contagious viral respiratory disease that affects chickens, causing significant economic losses in the poultry industry. The disease is caused a coronavirus, which primarily affects the respiratory and reproductive systems.

POULTRY

Common issues seen in commercial laying farms would be **drops in production** and **poor eggshell quality,** as well as respiratory signs.

IB can also weaken the birds' immune system, making them more susceptible to secondary bacterial infections, such as E coli.

IB is shed by infected birds through respiratory secretions and in their faeces. The virus can then be picked up by susceptible birds coming into with contaminated material or through airborne spread.

Once infected, birds shed the virus for several weeks, leading to rapid spread of the disease within a flock. The airborne spread of IB can be over 1km and is most common in areas with a dense chicken population. Movement of live birds or contaminated eggs or packing material can also spread the disease long distances.

Therefore, all flocks are potentially at risk.

Infectious bronchitis control or risk-management strategy should be integral to and veterinary health and welfare plan for a flock.

This may include implementing biosecurity measures, conducting regular surveillance for the presence of the virus, and adjusting vaccination protocols based on the circulating strains of IB virus.

IB viruses can be detected by PCR analysis, which can also differentiate field-strains and the live vaccine-strains. This test can also be used to audit vaccination administration and uptake by the birds.

In the event of a suspected outbreak, it is important to speak to a vet as soon as possible in order to reach a diagnosis quickly and to implement best management advice on farm to reduce the impact on your flock.

Ensuring a comprehensive vaccination protocol for your flock is the most effective method for preventing IB outbreaks.

Live vaccines are typically administered to day-old chicks and periodically thug the rearing phase to provide broad protection against the most common strains of the virus. This is usually then boosted by inactivated vaccines as an injection near or at the time of transfer to the laying site.

Administration of live IB vaccines through the laying period can help to maintain optimal immunity and life-long protection.

There are many IB strains, and therefore it is important to consul with your vet to ensure your flock receives an appropriate vaccination programme for your circumstance.

Good biosecurity practice is also integral to a farm's protection against IB. Key points include:

- Keeping visitors to a minimum.
- Ensuring site specific and shed specific PPE is changed at entrances.
- Equipment is not shared between sheds.
- Any vehicles entering a site (e.g. feed and egg lorries) are washed and disinfected before entering, or ideally kept off the site completely by introducing a central egg store and off-site feed bins.

It is also important to maintain optimal air quality inside the sheds, and to have a comprehensive cleaning and disinfection programme between flocks.

In conclusion, the control of infectious bronchitis in laying hen flocks is multifactorial, involving an effective vaccination programme, biosecurity measures, and management strategies. It is vital that every farm discusses their own control strategy with their vet to ensure relevant site-specific advice is given and included in the flock health plan.

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