

CENTENARY CALF FEED WINS AT BEEF EXPO 2005

A Welsh black calf fed on CCF Centenary calf feed has won a prestigious award at the recent Beef Expo show at Builth Wells recently.

Bred by T & H Jones of Cwm Cau, Aberystwyth, alongside its mother Esther 85th, they won the overall commercial cow and calf competition.

Pictured

right with Messrs T & H Jones is Esther 85th and Esther 110. Also in the picture is D Williams. If you are interested in the

Centenary range of feed for sheep and cattle please contact your nearest CCF branch.

SOIL ANALYSIS SERVICE

With the price of fertilizer continuing to increase, this autumn is a good time to analyse your fields.

A simple lime test can be carried out at our branches free of charge. This test checks the pH of the soil which is critical to achiev-

ing optimum response from applied fertilizer.

A more detailed laboratory analysis is also available which will check phosphate, potash and magnesium at a charge. These results can help tailor your fertilizer pro-

gram to the needs of your farm which could save you money.

Ask at your local branch or sales representative if you require either soil testing service.

GENERAL MANAGERS COMMENTS by Keith Gosney

For us September marks the start of what I suspect will be a series of changes as we try to adapt to the accelerating amount of change within farming.

It is widely predicted that the next 12-24 months will see an even more dramatic reduction in the farming supply industry. With some pundits predicting collapses even bigger than July's collapse of Pyebibby (reputed to be the biggest ever in the agricultural supply).

Our big challenge as a co-operative must be to try to reconnect with our farmer shareholders, to make sure we deliver what they require from us. It is a sad paradox that we as a society could deliver very real savings to farmer shareholders, if we had commitment, but we perhaps do not get the commitment because shareholders do not know if we can deliver.

We also have to be wary of spending shareholders funds foolishly. It is sad to me that our neighbours C.P.F seem intent on buying their way into Pembrokeshire and Cardiganshire, with the result that farmers' money is being

spent against farmers' money. Lessons from the past with the demise of Milk Marque and the situation of Dairy Crest would seem to suggest the only losers will be yes you've guessed it farmers. It would also seem to me that the farming unions, especially the N.F.U, should be encouraging co-operatives to work together or we will be so intent on self destruct that two societies who could combine to work for farmers' interests, will only succeed in allowing large agri-supply companies to dominate the market and command higher prices from hard pressed farmers!

A very big success for us in the last year has been our move into own branding and own brand grass seed,

bulk feed and bagged layers feed has moved extremely well.

Our aim is to continue own brand where we think opportunities exist, having sensible ranges of products at what we hope are extremely good value in terms of both price and quality.

This autumn will again see good value Centenary bulk feed products available in South West Wales from our jointly owned feed mill at Carmarthen, together with Centenary and Farmers' Formula feeds in the rest of Wales.

Finally I have a colleague who is always keen on so called "strap lines", so I suppose ours should be: **use us or loose us**, if we are doing it right tell others if not tell either myself or your local farmer director.

NEW CCF WEBSITE

We at CCF have recently updated our website. The new website is more informative, more user friendly and is being constantly update. Why not see for yourself and log onto www.ccfagri.co.uk



MORE NITROGEN FROM YOUR SLURRY

As nitrogen prices reach an all time high it is even more important to make the most of the fertilizer value of your slurry.

With pressure also on farmers to farm in an environmentally friendly way, slurry too often risks pollution, smell, and leached nitrogen especially in NVZ's. But help is at hand in the form of a surprisingly simple powder treatment that when added to slurry reduces foul odours, controls ammonia and locks in nitrogen preserving its nutrient value. Too good to be true - not according to an increasing number of farmers who have been successfully using the treatment over the last couple of seasons.

For example Stuart Shepherd of Moons Farm, near Preston in Lancashire, who runs a 180 cow herd, says "my large underground tanks used to be difficult to pump out due to crusting. Having used the treatment for 18 months the tanks stay liquid making them easy to pump, there is little or no ammonia, and the nutrients in the slurry have helped to yield excellent crops in summer. In spite of using high levels of detergents and disinfectants which find their way into the underground tanks, the treatment still

works by keeping the slurry liquid, reducing smell, and allowing us to apply less bought in fertiliser. It saves us time and cost on our farm".

The powder treatment called **Enviro SlurryBugs** produced by Lancashire based EnviroSystems, contains enzymes and micro-organisms that accelerates and sustains the degradation of slurry solids and urine waste during storage. The enzymes in **SlurryBugs** multiply through fresh slurry and promote biochemical processes that efficiently break down the neat slurry to retain nitrogen and other fertilizer nutrients. Tests have shown that slurry treated with **SlurryBugs** can retain 25% more nitrogen than untreated slurry.

The action of **SlurryBugs** also keeps the slurry more liquid so prevents a crust forming making the slurry easier to pump.

By preserving the nutrient value the production of ammonia and foul odours is also reduced which means improved air quality and a healthier environment for all types of housed livestock kept on slats.

The added public environmental benefit is reduced nuisance from smells when

spreading slurry on the land. Mr. Lawrenson, a farmer from Pilling said "We applied **SlurryBugs** all winter and noticed that when spreading our slurry in the spring there was no smell. Our neighbour spread his slurry the following day and the smell was awful."

As well as the environmental benefits, the financial savings of using the treatment can be considerable as nitrogen loss in untreated lagoons and storage tanks can range from 35% to 80% depending on the system. Farmers are coming under increasing pressure from NVZ's as well as escalating fertilizer costs which mean it is essential that all nutrients in the slurry are re-cycled back onto the land to grow crops.

The good news is that SlurryBugs is available through your local CCF Country Store. Enviro **SlurryBugs** should be mixed in a large bucket of water prior to being added through the slats to the holding tanks. Each 100g dose treats 10,000 gallons (approx 45,000lt). Only treat once after each emptying. A little slurry should be left in the bottom for the live bacteria to populate the environment. A 1kg pot is £89 + postage. To order phone Mary 01437 563441

PREVENT LUNGWORM FROM DAMAGING COWS

The lungworm season is upon us and Meriel would like to remind you of the benefits of using Eprinex™ Pour-on for Beef and Dairy Cattle to treat this condition. The number of cases of lungworm infection being diagnosed has been on the increase in recent years, especially in adult lactating dairy cows. Clinical signs vary from coughing to difficulty in breathing; in severe cases the animal may never

fully recover and this may even result in death.

Eprinex is the only wormer that has a zero milk withdrawal and so should be considered as the treatment of choice for use in the dairy herd. Eprinex is efficacious against adult and larval lungworm with a prolonged activity against this parasite for up to 28 days.

When faced with an outbreak of lungworm, it is

important to treat the whole herd with Eprinex to clear parasite infections and reduce pasture contamination, so limiting re-infection. Eprinex Pour-On is easy to apply meaning less stress to stock.

Besides treating lungworm problems, other benefits may be observed following strategic treatments with Eprinex. These include improved growth rates, increased milk yields and im-

SUPAVERM - ADDRESSING THE FLUKE RESISTANCE ISSUE

Concerns are growing regarding the possible spread of resistance to flukicides in the UK, following recorded cases in areas of Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland.

Supaverm, the combined fluke and worm treatment, contains the flukicide closantel - to which there is no known fluke resistance in the UK. Using Supaverm, solely or in rotation with other treatments, is a key strategy to counter this potential threat to a farm's economy and to the future of sheep farming.

Supaverm has the following

attributes:-

- **Broadest spectrum**
The broadest spectrum combination fluke and worm drench containing closantel = Excellent value for money.
- **Kills immature and adult fluke**
Closantel kills not only adult but immature fluke as well. Can be used all year round, on all risk levels of farms.
- **Stunts early immature fluke**
The residual action stunts early immature fluke

=less movement = less damage = your peace of mind in cases of acute fluke

- **No known resistance of fluke to closantel**
In the UK and Ireland, there is no known resistance of fluke to closantel, unlike reported resistance to triclabendazole
- **Active for 20% longer**
Closantel stays active against egg laying for 20% longer compared to triclabendazole.
- **Proven for 15**

LIVING A LIFETIME IN SEVEN MONTHS

Reading previous issues of this news letter, I thought that it would be a good idea to tell other people about my experiences of a lifetime. I would like to thank Clynderwen & Cardigan-shire Farmers for letting me include this article.

It all began when I saw an advert in the Farmers Weekly, in January 2003 for AgriVenture. AgriVenture is a programme run by IAEA (International Agricultural Exchange Association). They have been placing young people on farms and horticultural businesses for 40 years and they operate in around 20 countries world wide. I had often thought about seeing another part of the world but it was only when I saw the advert that I thought, why not? I could do that.

A couple of phone calls and

some form filling later, I found myself well on the way to embarking on an experience of a lifetime. It was this easy because the UK organisation does all the work required to get flights, insurance, visas etc organised, as well as finding me a job with an approved host family in my chosen country.

I worked for Mike Allen, who runs a very professional 8000 acre arable farm near Jamestown, North Dakota, in the USA. As well as growing the usual wheat and barley, he also grows the less familiar crops of Soya Beans, Sunflowers and Corn (grain Maize). It was a fantastic experience working there (even though there can occasionally be limited excitement in a 640 acre fields, one mile long by one mile

wide) and getting involved in the local community who were all very welcoming.

Also during my stay I did a three week, 5000 mile tour of 5 western states and 2 Canadian provinces, from Calgary in Alberta, south to San Francisco and Los Angeles and then back north again.

All in all, it was a life changing experience and my advice to anyone (age 18—30) who has thought about doing something similar, is to give it a go, you won't regret it! After all - Life is a Voyage of Discovery.

Stuart Mills

To find out more:

Freephone 0800 7832186, visit the website www.Agriventure.com or Email: uk@agriventure.com

DEOSAN MAJOR MILK FILTER PAYS FOR ITSELF IN 2 MONTHS

The unique design of the Deosan major milk filter, which is exported world wide, ensures that after every milking, all milk left in the pipeline can be very simply drained out and is clean and filtered to 90 microns. NO WASTAGE!

No other filter achieves this!

The benefits are so obvious that this filter will PAY FOR ITSELF after only 8 weeks.

If that were not enough, because the UNIQUE formulation of the polymer

used in the canister moulding is so resilient:-

DEOSAN GUARANTEE THE FILTER CANISTER FOR A LIFETIME!!!

The Deosan Major Milk Filter can be found in CCF branches.



NEWS FROM BOCM PAULS

Philip Douch of BOCM PAULS is regularly being asked "what is the best balancer for the abundance of cheap cereal on farm". Lower cattle prices mean beef producers are looking for more cost effective ways of feeding cattle. BOCM PAULS has a system in place that can deliver much lower cost per kilogramme Live Weight Gain (LWG) together with maximum animal growth rates.

Based upon a system of mixing 85% cereal and 15% PRIMEMIX 34 + LEVUCCELL, a ration of 14% crude protein and 55% starch can be achieved, capable of delivering 1.4kg to 2.2kg/day LWG dependant on feed rate and animal genetics.

"Only in the last few weeks, two new customers have reported huge success stories after changing from other protein sources. One changed from a competitor product and has seen the cattle eat more food, have better eyes and coats and killing out % has improved by 2%, worth an extra £12/ animal. The other previously used a blend and has again reported higher food intakes, live weight gains increasing from 1.3kg / day to 1.6kg / day and no bloat

problems together with less dust and time spent mixing the ration.

The reason why Primemix 34 + Levucell works so well is because it has a range of protein sources, carefully selected through BOCM PAULS Ethos research, that can deliver protein to match the starch supplied by the cereal. By achieving this, Feed Conversion Efficiency (FCE) is improved, which means you get more kilogrammes of beef sold from the same amount of feed fed. This in turn reduces the cost / Kg LWG.

It is not only the type and quality of protein that are unique in Primemix 34. Included in the package are mineral levels 5 times higher than normal beef feeds. This ensures enough

important minerals such as calcium are supplied to young, fast growing cattle essential for a strong skeleton that can carry the weight later in life.

The Levucell added to Primemix again works in a special way. This live yeast which is encapsulated to survive pelleting, is activated once it reaches the animals' rumen. Once working, it has the benefit of reducing acidosis, eliminating bloat and laminitis, all conditions that severely affect profitability.

Available in both bags and bulk, and also as a non GM version, PRIMEMIX 34 + LEVUCCELL provides a profitable solution to all cattle feeding situations this winter.

WINTER CEREAL VARIETIES

Winter cereal variety recommendations for this winter are as follows:-

WINTER BARLEY
Antonia Pearl
Pict (6 row)

WINTER WHEAT
Claire Deben
Robigus

WINTER OATS
Millenium Gerald

TRITICALE
Lamberto
If you are interested in any other varieties not listed above please contact your nearest branch for availability.

