

FERTILIZER MATTERS

July is the start of the fertilizer manufacturers year and it has begun with the highest starting prices on record for ammonium nitrate at around £140/tonne.

The prices are justified by the manufacturers higher gas, energy and ammonia costs. New season prices are only being offered until September as the volatility of the gas price could send

fertilizer prices higher.

The UK market for fertilizer has fallen by 1.5 million tonnes over the last 5 years but global demand for fertilizer continues to increase.

There have also been increases in phosphate and potash prices over the last six months, which is also delaying any new season offers.

For those interested in buying urea there is some tonnage available for August and September delivery and the unit price compares favourably with the current ammonium nitrate pricing.

We need to see some relaxation in gas prices going forward before we can expect any significant fall in fertilizer prices.

NEW DRY COW MANAGEMENT from Trouw Nutrition

The impact of nutrition in the transition period on overall lactation performance is well understood, and the way we treat the freshly-calved cow has now come under scrutiny. A new product, developed to boost energy and fluid intakes in the period immediately post-calving, is now available, to meet the demands of the high yielding dairy cow.

Maxcare Reviva has been formulated to help:

- Promote rapid re-hydration of the cow

- Improve recovery time with influx of energy as Glucose
- Strengthen the Immune system
- Reduce the risk of metabolic diseases including milk fever, by providing a source of soluble calcium
- balance the rumen microflora, and stimulate ruminal absorption of nutrients promoting early feed intake, and boosting milk production.

Already proven on farms in the UK, Maxcare Reviva is a powder product which comes in 6 or 20 kg buckets. **For further**

Did You Know:-
- that 6 CCF Head Office staff have collectively worked for CCF for a total of 206 years. They are Spencer, Eirlys, Eleri, Geraint, Mary and Alun. That's loyalty for you!!!!

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS By Keith Gosney

Well here we are in July and once again Farmers For Action are taking up the gauntlet to argue for fairer returns for farming and it seems to me that for them to stand any chance of succeeding, every business and organisation which derives an income from agriculture needs to be in support if they are to get any where. At the recent Live Aid concert Jeremy Clarkson was asked if he had made a contribution and if he thought it would actually help Africa's problems and he replied..... "Well it must help more than if I do nothing!"

The big problem of course is how do we get a united voice in agriculture especially in an industry where at all levels any co-operation is often resisted. Recently when asked about dairy cake by a farmer and how I thought we should sell it, I replied that I thought we should operate at sensible level prices. He told me it would never work as many farmers, rather than all buy a load at £120.00 a tonne, would prefer to buy theirs at £124.00, if their neighbours were paying £130.00; I hope he is wrong.

An old colleague has given me a copy of a company

newsletter from a co-operative sent out to its members in 1985. Its message then was as follows and I quote "If total dominance of the farming market place by a few major players is to be avoided then co-operatives provide the only viable answer.

Farmer owned business in general terms have done little to fight the advance of the major players, they insist like many of their customers, in remaining independent, despite assets being under utilised and duplicated.

They insist on sticking to levels of service that are uneconomic and certainly not provided by many of their competitors. They even seek to compete with each other, especially in times of adversity. Who wins? The Farmer; short term yes, but what of the future?" (extract from John Bradshaw, C.E.O., South Western Farmers January 1985).

Since 1985 countless farm businesses have had to change, many have gone out of business and thousands lost their employment. Yet you could be forgiven for believing the comments were made recently and are certainly pertinent to South West Wales.

CCF LAUNCH FEED SILOS

CCF are pleased to announce a partnership with EB equipment feed bins. Acknowledged as the market leading manufacturer, EB silos and tanks lead in the storage of all forms of agricultural feed and liquids. EB were the first in the UK to develop the production of silos in GRP (glass reinforced plastic) and as the demand for T.M.R feeding has increased over the last few years EB have designed and developed a range of high discharge silos and tanks specifically designed for discharge into the modern day mixer wagons. Each silo is manufactured to suit the customers individual requirements with variations on height and diameter, coned or dished bottom, inlet and outlet style, size and location.

CCF have on demonstration at Letterston, Crymych and Felinfach a silo to view.

Any size is available and for more information please contact your nearest CCF branch.

NEWS FROM BOCM PAULS

FINISHING BEEF 3 MONTHS EARLIER IS WORTH £39.

Finishing beef animals quicker has become a prerequisite for successful beef production. That message is being recognised; the difference it can make to profitability is yet to fully hit home. A quick glance at last year's market prices emphasises the point, says BOCM PAULS Dyfrig Hughes.

Over an eight week period last year the R4L steer price dropped from around 203p per kilo DW to 184p — a difference, for a 350kg carcass of around £67. The additional feed cost of accelerating the finishing by three months through the growing season would have been only £28. "The positive cash flow benefits of having money three months earlier, and grazing for other enterprises are also significant", he says.

Using BOCM PAULS

proven Top Grade Rolls means there is no outlay needed for troughs, as the cattle can be fed out on the ground, ideally in a different place each day to avoid poaching. Labour is also minimal.

This high energy feed with protein levels corrected for grazing will finish stock 42 days earlier, according to ETHOS trial work. An increasing number of beef farmers are using the feed, which was initially popular back in the mid 1990's and which was reintroduced two years ago because of demand and the economics of supplementary feeding of beef animals at grass. The amount of feed needed depends on the SIZE OF THE ANIMAL. The recommended feed rate of Top Grade is 0.5kg/100kg Liveweight on good grass, rising to 1.0kg/100kg when the quality or availability of the grass declines.

"The earlier you start supplementary feeding in an animal's life the better the conversion efficiency will be, and the more profitable it will be. 'Younger and Faster for Profitable Beef' are the watchwords," says Dyfrig. Prior to changing to Top Grade Rolls at around 400kg the recommendation is for a quality specialist beef creep, like BOCM PAULS Beef Grower, for the initial growing period.

Many beef farmers, traditionally adopt a 'one diet fits all' feeding strategy. That won't maximise growth rates, help to build big frames that the meat can be hung on later. You wouldn't find intensive pig farmers feeding one diet to all their animals, and the same is true for beef. The economics of feeding at grass really do stack up," he concludes.

DECTOMAX HAS THE LENGTH & STRENGTH

Dectomax Pour On is well worth it because:-

- No other wormer gives you the length— Dectomax is still working when other pour on's have finished

- No other pour on gives you the strength— Dectomax has unique licensed persistence against lice
- Dectomax adds weight

to your herd

- Dectomax is rainfast and goes on working even if it rains immediately after application.

Ask your local branch for further details on Dectomax

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★ CYDECTIN POUR ON ★
★ CATTLE WORMER ★
★ BUY 2 & 2.5Lt and get a ★
★ FREE BODYWARMER ★
★ Worth £20 ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ PERSIL WASHING ★
★ POWDER 135 wash ★
★ BUY 1 PERSIL and get ★
★ 5lt COMFORT FREE ★
★ (original, lily or pure) ★
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★ TENDAHOOF ★
★ FOOT TREATMENT ★
★ DISINFECTANT ★
★ Was £90 ★
★ NOW 1/2 PRICE ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★



** CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS **

LIVESTOCK FOR SALE
TEXEL YEARLING rams. Please telephone for details. A + J Hughes, Marlsbrough Flock. TEL: 07974 967010 or 01437 710395
TEXEL YEARLING rams and ewes. All Genotyped from Carswell prize winning flock. Numbers limited so come and choose early to avoid disappointment TEL: 01834 871366.
SHEEPDOG PUPPIES. 8 weeks old. Black and white. Strong puppies. Good working strain. Mother can be seen. Fish-guard area TEL: 01348 891242
SUFFOLK & TEXEL yearling rams & ram lambs. Jones, Camrose TEL: 01437 710242

SUFFOLK YEARLING rams for sale. Scrapie tested. TEL: 01994 484500 after 8pm or 07818 208413
FOR SALE
6 GALLON FULLWOOD recording jars. 10 to sell. £25 each. TEL: 01834 811386 after 6pm
FRESH FARM PORK from our own herd of Gloucester Old Spots. Quality pork at affordable prices. Additive free. Joints, chops, pork sausages. Discount on 1/2 or whole porker. Also bacons, gammons and ham. We always have weaners, pedigree G.O.S and Berkshires and Wild Boar and Tamworth crosses. Boars also at stud TEL: 01570 470224
9' ROTOWIPER TEL: 01650 511306
KVERNELAND ROUND

LAMPETER SHOW 19th AUGUST 2005

Classes for cattle, horses, sheep, goats and dogs. Also Horticultural section for all ages. Evening Rugby competition. Disco at night. For more information contact Gwen Davies
TEL: 01570 481152



bale straw chopper. Model KD807. As new £1950
TEL: 01747 870292
DEARING BINDER. Immaculate condition. TEL: 01974 261358
CHAFF CUTTER. ALSO Barrow seed drill, Grinding mill. Petrol Lister engine - as new. TEL: 01974 261358
BLUE SWB PETROL Landrover 1981, 73000 miles, reasonable condition, Offers Tel 01939 236388
WANTED
HEREFORD & ABERDEEN Angus cattle by registered bull (fat or stores). A good price given TEL: 01437 731336
CAKE BIN 8-10 TONNE. Must be in good condition. TEL: 01437 710268
PIG ARK. TEL: 01437 721685