



### Market Update: The molasses market remains firm and major global uncertainties are likely to keep it that way for some time

1. Ocean freight has firmed due to the switch to low sulphur fuel (IMO2020). We have seen a short term easing in freight rates driven by the dip in demand from China due to the coronavirus. The market expects to see a significant “bounce” in prices once the outbreak has been contained.
2. A poor crop in India has led to an export ban in several key molasses producing states as the molasses is being used for domestic ethanol.
3. The US beet crop has failed due to excessively wet weather. This has resulted in a significant increase in US molasses demand. The US is currently importing European beet driving up prices.
4. The long term drought and associated wild fires has decimated the Australian sugar crop moving Australia from being a net molasses exporter to an importer.
5. High Global ethanol prices are driving increased production. As molasses is a key feed stock for ethanol this has increased demand in an already tight market.

### Spring 2020 Outlook

Firstly, it has been a very tricky start to the new year and our thoughts go out to all those that have been affected by the flooding. This new year brings about a lot of new challenges, and for those affected farms, it will mean longer housing periods and a full assessment of any pasture damage that may have been caused. On a more positive note, AHDB have reported average daily milk yields for Winter 2019 across GB higher than that of 2018. After the challenges of the 2018 drought and lack of forage over the Winter period, many producers used higher levels of concentrates to get through the Winter. The higher nutrient value being fed resulted in very high milk yields breaking previous records. However, what is important is that producers have returned to a more forage-based diet this Winter and have managed to deliver a growth on daily milk yields, showing that the industry is achieving a greater feed efficiency and more milk from forage on farms. This is a big achievement and a big step forward, showcasing the sustainability of British dairy farming!

The initial thoughts on this grazing season is that turnout will be happening much later than usual due to the wet conditions. Although soil temperatures are on the rise and grass cover may be returning to some parts of the UK, the weather is still being very unpredictable, making it hard to determine current

grass quality. However, regardless of the grass quality you are working with, the rule still applies that unless the nutrient supply is correctly balanced in the whole ration, then farmers run the risk of reducing feed efficiency, slower growth rates, less milk from forage and suppressing butterfats.

Grazed grass has much higher levels of rumen degradable protein (RDP), and therefore the diet must also be matched in energy levels to make efficient use of this protein. Protein utilisation in the rumen is an energy dependent process in which protein from the diet enters as either rumen degradable protein (RDP) or bypass protein (UDP). In the rumen, the RDP is broken down into ammonia, which provides nitrogen to rumen microbes, acting as a growth promoter. This process is dependent on energy being available to the rumen microbes and rapidly increases microbial growth. Microbes are continually flushed from the rumen through the omasum and to the abomasum, which is where they are digested as microbial protein by the cow. The amount of microbial protein that flows to the abomasum depends on the availability of energy and ammonia (RDP) in the cow's diet. If energy is lacking, only so much ammonia will be utilised by the microbes and the excess will be absorbed across the rumen wall directly into the blood stream and to the liver where urea is formed. Urea is then extracted from the blood by the kidneys and either recycled via the saliva or excreted in the urine. This not only contributes to nitrogen pollution, but also represents a loss of energy that could potentially be used in a more productive way.

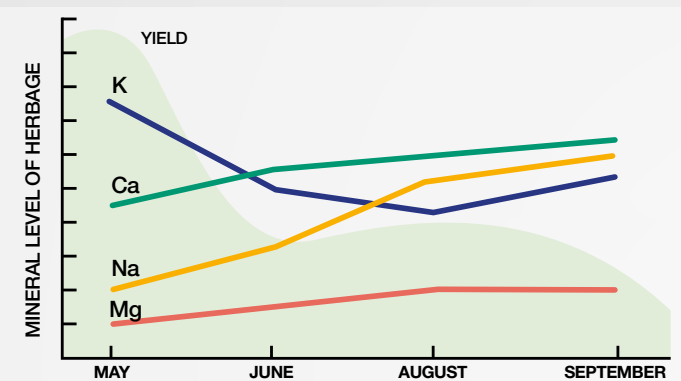
ED&F Man's molasses based liquid feeds can provide a synchrony between energy and protein using Regulated Release technology. Delivering high sugar and protein levels this provides both rapidly fermentable energy and rapidly available protein to the rumen. The higher protein utilisation allows for a greater yield of microbial protein. Microbial protein is a major source of nutrients and represents around 45-55% of the metabolisable protein that is available to the animal. Metabolisable protein is used by the ruminant for synthesis of milk protein, tissue protein (i.e. muscle structure) as well as enzymes and hormones.



## Grass Staggers Concerns? Not a Problem with a Liquid Solution

Magnesium supply is a critical issue during the grazing season, with spring grass being particularly low in magnesium and higher in potassium, due to fertilisers. This proves the perfect combination to cause magnesium deficiency. Potassium inhibits magnesium uptake, further exacerbating the already low supply of magnesium. Ruminants depend on a daily supply of magnesium since its metabolism is not regulated by specific hormones. Magnesium deficiency can be a fatal disorder and therefore it is essential to supplement livestock as often the first sign of a clinical issue is death. Supplementing stock with magnesium via a molasses based liquid feed is a proven and cost-effective means to overcome grass staggers.

Typically, magnesium is a very bitter tasting mineral and the sugars help to mask the unpalatable taste ensuring that intakes are maintained. Research has also shown that sugars speed magnesium absorption across the gut wall as sugars help to increase rumen function and activity.



Source: AHDB

## Sheepmol / Sheepmol Plus

Molasses based liquid feeds provide the perfect platform to meet the high nutritional demands of in-lamb ewes. They are highly palatable and have a low substitution effect in the rumen, allowing for greater dry matter intakes, which is vital in twin and triplet bearing ewes where rumen space is restricted. The addition of glycerine to liquid feeds such as Sheepmol, is a vital source of energy, which also stimulates glucose production. This is key for effective metabolism during pregnancy. Sheepmol Plus provides all benefits of Sheepmol with the addition of a trace element and vitamin package.

## Up coming events

|                |                                       |  |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 28 May 2020    | Beef Expo, Darlington                 |  |
| 4-6 Jun 2020   | Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge       |  |
| 1-2 Jul 2020   | Total Dairy, Stratford-upon-Avon      |  |
| 20-23 Jul 2020 | Royal Welsh Show, Powys               |  |
| 19 Aug 2020    | Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show, Dorset |  |
| 16 Sep 2020    | Dairy Day, Telford                    |  |
| 10 Oct 2020    | The Dairy Show, Somerset              |  |



## I bet you didn't know ED&F Man made fertiliser? Spring Fertiliser Efficiencies

It has been one of the wettest Winters in living memory, a February with the highest rainfall on record – and more rain forecast. The prospects for fertiliser applications looks perilous, with surface run off and leaching of nutrients a serious and costly threat.

But are there some options available? - Alternative application routes may offer some respite. Liquid fertiliser application has often been seen as a gamble, but using a chelating agent with a foliar application will see more nutrient reach the plant, combined with a high carbohydrate source, the effects of leaf scorch can be eliminated.

ED&F Man's 'Black Label' is a high carbohydrate sugar based fertiliser, which allows safe application of high Nitrogen solutions. The production process uses a unique filter process, which allows for use through most agricultural crop sprayers and displays great solubility. Further benefits are:

- Aiding soil carbon sequestration
- Boosting soil nutrient cycling
- Supporting the soil food web

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## END OF AN ERA

Dave Stanford is retiring from his role as Southern Commercial Manager after almost 20 years with ED&F Man and over 40 years in the Animal Feed Industry. Dave has been a key part of our business, supporting our Southern Customers and helping to build the farm business since joining the business in August 2000.

He was also President of the Bristol Corn & Feed Trade Association in 2013. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues and customers alike, but he knows the business is in safe hands with Danielle Goatley continuing to manage the Southern business, which she has been running alongside Dave for almost 4 years. We wish Dave well!



## Want to know more?

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