

## Market Update

With global tensions showing no sign of easing commodity markets remain volatile. There are still freight issues around the Red Sea/Suez Canal with vessels still being attacked. This has forced a large number of vessels to take the longer route around the Cape of Good Hope adding time and costs to ocean freight. Luckily on the other side of the world the issues around the Panama Canal have eased with water levels now back to more normal levels.

Following India's introduction of a 50% export tax on molasses to support the local use in fuel ethanol it was expected that global molasses supply would be tight and prices may firm further, however there have been a number of developments that have countered this;

1. Better than expected molasses exports from the USA, Central America and Pakistan
2. Large European beet crop resulting in the extra quantity of beet molasses replacing cane demand with industrial customers
3. Cheap Russian beet molasses being exported to countries willing to take it resulting in additional beet exports

All these factors have resulted in the global cane molasses price easing slightly. This together with urea being better priced means that ED&F Man's molasses blends are even more competitive, with winter prices now available.

### Alternative shipping route avoiding Red Sea

Using Red Sea/Suez Canal	Around Cape of Good Hope
10,000 nautical miles (18,520km)	13,500 nautical miles (25,002km)
25.5 days*	34 days*

\*Based on ultra large container vessel's average speed of 16.48 knots



## Winter Forage Outlook

The mild winter and wet weather for most of spring has led to an extremely variable forage crop across all regions. The delayed harvest has resulted in a higher proportion of older and overwintered material in clamps which is reflected in the forage quality this year. Although forage quality is variable this year, a lot of value can still be unlocked by driving good rumen function and balancing ration nutrients. Early first cuts have shown:

- Poor digestibility at 68.6%, caused by the high fibre content
- Dry matter of 33.7%, which is almost 3% higher than last year's first cut
- Low rumen fermentable carbohydrates (RFC)
- Low sugars at 1.7%

This sugar level does not provide the recommended level of 6-8% DM in a ration making supplementation a requirement. Firstly, RFCs are required to support good rumen function and efficiency and in turn animal production. Sugars are a great source of RFC and can help promote intakes and digestibility without increasing the risk of acidosis which can occur if too much starch is fed. It is best to provide a synchronised supply of RFCs in the form of both sugar and starch to achieve the best results, health and performance. Additionally, sugars can help increase fibre digestibility which is key with forage. It is estimated that for every 1%

of additional digested fibre (NDF) can represent a 0.17kg increase in DMI and a 0.25kg lift in milk yield. On farm, results show a 17% improvement in total ration digestibility after 6 weeks by increasing sugars from 3% to 6% DM with a molasses based liquid feed.

## Value of Liquid Feeds

Many co-products from other industries such as pot ale syrup, whey and draff that historically would be fed on farm are more commonly becoming unavailable to farmers due to being swallowed up by anaerobic digesters/biogas as feedstock. This equates to tens of thousands of tonnes of feed ingredients that need to be replaced within a ration.

Typically, liquid co-products on farm have a low dry matter with no consistent specification due to being a secondary product of another process. Despite this, these liquids have been utilised effectively on farms, however, the value of using a manufactured liquid feed is becoming clearer as it offers a consistent, reliable and readily available alternative to these syrups.

When it comes to choosing a liquid feed to use on farm it's important to remember that not all liquid feeds are equal, and the cheapest liquid on offer may not always be the most cost effective. While cost per metric tonne is important, this is less crucial if it can't be combined with:

- Year-Round Availability ■ Formulation Flexibility
- Longer Shelf Life ■ Less Waste
- Efficient Feed Rates ■ Good Consistency & Reliability
- Enhanced Digestibility

For efficient and cost-effective production, livestock rations need to be consistent. When a ration is changed, it can take up to 2 weeks for the rumen to adapt to the new ingredients and return to optimum levels of performance. ED&F Man Liquid feeds are manufactured to a guaranteed specification and are produced to order, giving users the confidence to build a ration that can be consistent and reliable in terms of quality, nutritional value and available in load sizes to suit the customer needs. To learn more about the value of different liquid feeds or to utilise our handy liquid feed checklist when choosing a liquid feed, take a look at our website: [www.edfmanliquidproductsuk.com/advice/](http://www.edfmanliquidproductsuk.com/advice/)

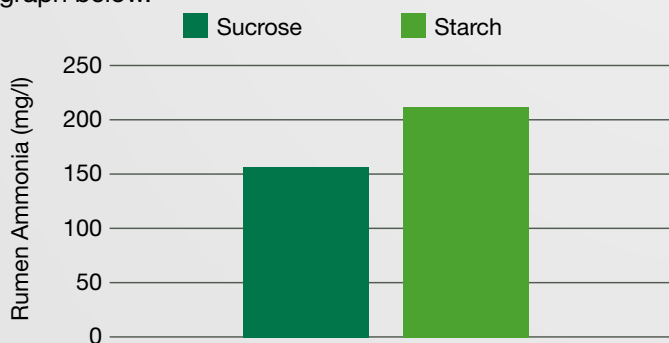
## Biomag – Essential magnesium source for grazing cattle

*Maximise cattle performance at grass and reduce risk of grass staggers*

The variable grass quality and poor weather is having an impact on grazing intakes which can lead to an increased risk of grass staggers if animals do not have access to sufficient magnesium especially in late summer and early autumn. Livestock rely on a daily supplementation of magnesium to maintain optimum levels as there is no system where magnesium can be released from bone storage to make up shortfalls. Typically, dairy and suckler cows require around 35g magnesium per day.

In cases of grass staggers, also known as hypomagnesaemia, as deficiencies happen quickly the clinical signs are often brought on very fast. When grass staggers strike, 30% of the time the result is fatal, therefore prevention is better and easier than cure.

Magnesium is a relatively bitter and unpalatable mineral often making it difficult to supplement in effective quantities, however, using a high sugar liquid feed can help to mask the taste ensuring an effective supplementation is achieved. Additionally, research has also shown that sugars help speed up magnesium absorption across the rumen wall aiding in uptake, as well as, improving overall rumen function and activity. In high protein forages, the available protein is often soluble and upon entering the rumen is rapidly broken down into ammonia. This excessive rumen ammonia causes an increase in rumen pH which inhibits magnesium absorption by cattle. Ensuring good rumen function and activity can help promote the rate at which ammonia is removed from the rumen helping to prevent ammonia build up. Research has shown that sugar, especially sucrose, found in high levels in cane molasses blends, has a substantial effect of ammonia removal from the rumen, significantly more effective than starch, see the graph below.



**Biomag** is a molasses based liquid feed with added magnesium as well as other essential trace minerals and vitamins ideal for beef cattle and suckler cows at grass. **Biomag** is high in sugar for maximum palatability to help boost intakes and stimulate rumen function and activity to reduce the risk of grass staggers. Additionally, magnesium can be added to all ED&F Man bulk blends at a range of inclusion rates to suit all needs.

## Fundraising at Dairy Day UK



**ED&F Man** has partnered with the Farming Community Network to raise money for this excellent and worthwhile organisation at all of the shows and trade events we attend.

The Farming Community Network are a voluntary organisation that supports farmers and families within the farming community. They run a confidential, national helpline open every day of the year providing free support for anyone who seeks help. Find out more about them at: [www.fcn.org.uk](http://www.fcn.org.uk)

**To find out how you can show your support come and see us at Dairy Day UK on the 11th September, stand number H164.**



## Is your tank winter ready?

- Interest free tank finance scheme available on new or replacement tanks
- Tank parts
- 12-42T storage tanks available

## Events calendar

UK Dairy Day	11th September	UK DAIRY Day
The Dairy Show	2nd October	BATH & WEST
Agri Expo	25th October	agri expo
AgriScot	13th November	AgriScot The Farm Business Event
Croptec	27/28th November	CROPTEC

## Want to know more?

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