Ireland's Dairy & Beef Nutrition Bulletin

Specialist Nutrition Moist Feed & Forage Specialists

Issue 03 | June 2024

Expert animal feed advice and updates from Specialist Nutrition to maximise performance on Irish farms

How to Get the Most from Your Second Cut Silage

Proven Strategies for Effective Nutrient Management and Slurry Use

where the second second

This means focussing on slurry application and achieving optimal pH by managing phosphorus, potassium and sulphur.

As you are well aware, silage crop from a second cut is much lighter, ranging from 2.5-

3T DM/ha versus around 5T DM/ha for the first cut. However, it is nonetheless a critical fodder source for winter. Below, the Specialist Nutrition team highlights some of the key actions needed to get the most from your second cut silage.

It's important to spread slurry immediately after the first cut is complete and it is recommended to apply lime 5-7 days later to reduce any ammonia losses.

Slurry will provide much of the phosphorous

(P) and potash (K or potassium) needed for a high quality second cut silage. Fertiliser should be applied in accordance with the yield potential.

Where slurry is not available, it's important to note that the application of an 18-6-12 compound is likely to result in a potash deficit which will affect the bulking up of your crop.

Continued on page 2 >



Fertiliser requirements based on DM yield of 2 to 4T DM/ha

Adequate P and K application is key. It is important to get the Nitrogen (N) application spot on to optimise grass growth and yield while avoiding unnecessary application. It is worth noting that newly reseeded swards with higher Ryegrass content are more likely to utilise the N more efficiently,

100 (80)

TARI F 1

4 (8tn/ac

fresh grass)5

demonstrating a key importance of regular reseeding.

One thousand gallons of slurry will typically yield 6 units of P and 30 units K. To achieve seven tonnes of fresh weight per acre will typically require 72 units of N. 11 units of P and 60 units of K.

Grass Yield (ton DM/ha) ²	N kg/ha (units/ac)	P kg/ha (units/ac)	K kg/ha (units/ac)	No slurry ¹	Cattle slurry gal/ac
2 (4tn/ac fresh grass)⁵	50 (40)	8 (6)	50 (40)	2 bags/ac 15-3-20	1,500 gals/ac 1 bags/ac CAN
3 (6tn/ac fresh grass)⁵	75 (60)	12 (10)	75 (60)	3 bags/ac 15-3-20 0.75 bags/ac CAN	2,000 gals/ac 2 bags/ac CAN

16 (13)

100 (80)



To maximise nitrogen uptake and efficiency while replenishing essential nutrients, it's important to apply sulphur after each cut of silage. Sulphur plays a vital role in maximising amino acids (the building blocks of protein) in grassland. If your grass is deficient in sulphur, the tell-tale signs may be similar to nitrogen deficiency but are easy to differentiate — S deficiency can be identified when new leaves are pale green or yellow in colour whereas N deficiency results in older leaves being pale green or yellow.

As leaching leads to loss of S, well drained soils with lower organic matter are more likely to be low in the nutrient whereas poorly drained, heavy soils with higher organic matter will have better availability of sulphur for your crops.

A ratio per cut of 12:1 N:S is recommended from March onwards while for second cut silage an application ranging from 8 to 15kg S/ha (6 to 12 units/acre) is recommended.

TABLE 2

2,500 gals/ac

2.75 bags/ac CAN

4 bags/ac 15-3-20

0.75 bags/ac CAN

Manure Type	Application Method	N	Р	к
Cattle slurry (7% DM)	Splash plate	3	5	32
Cattle slurry (7% DM)	Low Emission	6	5	32
Pig slurry (4% DM)	Splash plate	13	7	20
Pig slurry (4% DM)	Low Emission	19	7	20



Specialist Nutrition is Ireland's leading provider of alternative and sustainable feed sources, performance supplements and nutritional expertise for healthy and thriving beef, dairy and pig herds. If you would like to speak with one of our nutritionists about maximising nutrition or to request a farm visit, call us on + 353 (0) 51 833071.



Tips For Successful Grassland Reseeding this Spring

Keeping your grassland vigorous and productive is a vital aspect of successful livestock farming. One of the most effective ways to achieve this is through regular reseeding of your pastures. By incorporating the right grass mixtures and adopting good management practices, you can ensure high-quality forage for your livestock throughout the grazing season, at the shoulders of the year and throughout the winter. Let's delve into the key considerations and benefits of spring reseeding for your farm.

Understanding the Importance of Reseeding

Reseeding is an essential component of grassland management, contributing to increased daily liveweight gain and milk production. In Ireland, where grass serves as the primary feed source for livestock, maintaining productive swards is crucial for farm profitability. Despite this, reseeding levels remain low, with less than 2% of the national grassland area reseeded annually. To address this gap and unlock the full potential of your pastures, prioritising reseeding is paramount.



The Benefits of Reseeding

Why should reseeding be a priority on your farm? Consider the following advantages:

Higher Productivity: Reseeding leads to the development of higher-producing swards with superior quality, resulting in increased daily liveweight gain and milk production for your livestock.

Improved Animal Performance: New swards offer better nutrition, contributing to enhanced animal performance and health.

Enhanced Nitrogen Efficiency: Freshly reseded pastures can utilise nitrogen more efficiently, optimising nutrient utilisation and reducing input costs.

Economic Benefits: Grazed grass is one of the most costeffective forms of feed on Irish farms. Reseeding ensures a continuous supply of high-quality forage, reducing the need for expensive supplemental feeds.

Grass Utilisation: Choosing grass mixtures that enhance grazing utilisation can significantly improve the efficiency of your entire farming operation.

Choosing the Right Grass Mixture

When reseeding, selecting the correct grass variety is crucial for achieving optimal results. The Pasture Profit Index (PPI) is an invaluable tool used to assess grass varieties' economic value and agronomic traits. By choosing varieties with high PPI scores, you can ensure superior performance and profitability in your pastures.

At Specialist Nutrition, we offer a range of grass mixtures designed to meet the diverse needs of farmers like you. Our mixtures guarantee:



Excellent Grazing Utilisation:

Specialist Nutrition grass varieties are carefully selected to promote optimal grazing utilisation, ensuring that your livestock make the most of every mouthful.

High Yields:

With Specialist Nutrition grass mixtures, you can expect consistently high yields of quality forage throughout the grazing season, maximising your farm's productivity.

Superior Quality and Palatability:

Specialist Nutrition grass varieties are renowned for their excellent quality and palatability, supporting superior animal performance and health.

Long-Term Persistence:

Specialist Nutrition mixtures are formulated for long-term persistence, providing reliable forage production year after year.



The Reseeding Process

When to reseed depends largely on weather conditions and grass availability. Spring and early summer are particularly favourable times for establishing white clover, benefitting from the stability of soil temperatures during this period.

Before initiating the reseeding process, it's crucial to conduct a comprehensive soil analysis, assessing levels of phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and pH. This step ensures optimal soil fertility, providing an ideal foundation for successful grass growth. Following soil analysis, the next step involves clearing the existing pasture by applying glyphosate. It's essential to allow a minimum of 7–10 days after spraying before proceeding with cultivation.

With the groundwork laid, the subsequent task is to prepare a fine, firm seedbed, providing the ideal conditions for sowing the chosen grass mixture at the recommended rate.

After reseeding, effective weed control is imperative to establish a healthy sward. Applying post-emergence herbicides when weeds are in the seedling stage ensures optimal control. Additionally, careful grazing management on newly reseeded areas promotes tillering and white clover establishment. This meticulous approach sets the stage for robust grass growth and long-term pasture health.



Key Considerations for Spring Reseeding

When embarking on a spring reseeding project, several factors should be taken into account:

Soil Health Assessment:

Before embarking on reseeding, identify and address any drainage issues and assess soil fertility through soil testing. Correcting soil pH levels and applying necessary lime, phosphate, and potash during reseeding sets the stage for optimal grass growth.

Timing and Methods:

Spring reseeding offers favourable weather conditions for successful establishment. Surface cultivation methods, such as disc harrowing and power harrowing, minimise soil disturbance and facilitate quick germination of grass seeds. Ensure proper seed-to-soil contact for optimal germination rates.

Grass Variety Selection:

Choose grass varieties based on their production and persistence qualities, with

consideration for soil type and land use (grazing, silage, or both). Optimal seeding rates, typically around 14 kgs per acre, and incorporating clover in most mixes contribute to a well-balanced sward.

Soil Amendments:

Incorporating lime at 2-3 tonnes per acre during sowing helps maintain soil pH levels, while bag lime offers a convenient alternative. Standard fertiliser recommendations, adjusted based on soil tests and nitrates restrictions, support initial grass growth and establishment.

Pre and Post-seeding Practices:

Ensure proper weed control by spraying with glyphosate a minimum of 6-7 days before cultivating. Post-emergent herbicide application 30-35 days after sowing helps manage broad-leaved weeds effectively. Grazing new reseeds 60-70 days after sowing, preferably with small cattle or sheep, encourages tillering and ensures a dense sward for the following year.

Conclusion

Spring reseeding is a critical practice for maintaining healthy, productive grassland on farms. By addressing sward quality issues and incorporating best practices outlined above, farmers can unlock the full potential of their grassland, leading to increased grass production and enhanced animal performance.

For expert guidance on spring reseeding and optimising farm productivity, contact Specialist Nutrition. Our team of experts is committed to supporting your farm's success through effective reseeding practices. <u>Contact us today</u> to learn more about how reseeding can transform your farm's performance.



Maximise Your Livestock Feed Efficiency With Home-Grown Forage

aking a structured approach to your forage plan will help you budget for the feed demands for the year ahead and navigate the key forage decisions to be considered in the coming months. Specialist Nutrition is dedicated to empowering farmers with the expertise to optimise feed efficiency through strategic forage utilisation. We believe in harnessing the full potential of grazed grass, home-grown forages, and supplementary feeds to achieve maximum nutritional value.

Partnering for Optimal Efficiency

At Specialist Nutrition, our nutritionists provide tailored guidance on optimising grazing platforms and integrating alternative forages through forage utilisation. We believe in a personalised approach that involves in-depth on-farm analyses, considering forages, animals, and environmental factors.

With nutritionists all over the island of Ireland, we're always local to your farm. You can rely on us for continuous consultation, forage analysis, and bespoke nutritional recommendations for continued herd health and high performance. Ask our expert nutritionists/technical consultants today for friendly and personalised advice on improving herd performance.

For more information on optimising your grazing platform or integrating forage crops into your rotation <u>please call + 353 (0) 51</u> <u>833071</u> or contact your local Specialist Nutrition Technical Consultant.



Maize - open sown and under cover

Maize is a high energy, high dry matter home-grown feed.

When included in diets will increase intakes and have a positive effect on overall yields and milk solids in the dairy herd but equally increased intakes improve daily live weight gain, kill out percentage and fat score in a beef production system.

- Maize can be used in spring postcalving where cows have a high demand for energy, but equally as a buffer feed where there is a feed deficit situation (drought etc.)
- A more consistent, cost-effective solution to a 2 or 3 cut grass silage system.
- Sowing maize under cover with plastic generally costs 200€ an acre more to grow. Although it is essential in certain parts of the country, it is worth considering sowing without plastic.

Open Sow varieties are:

- 1. Cheaper to grow
- 2. New varieties are less risky to grow without plastic
- 3. Weed control is easier
- 4. More targeted use of fertiliser

So, if you have a good site and you are sowing in time, sow without plastic. Our team are available to talk you through your options.



Fodder Beet

Fodder Beet can produce substantial yields of high-quality fodder and is an excellent supplement to grass silage.

Fodder beet is grown as a main root crop, which requires similar husbandry to sugar beet. The roots are very palatable to stock and have superb feed quality.

It is grown as a main root crop, which requires similar husbandry to sugar beet. Specialist harvesting equipment is required to lift the roots and storage is required unless they are strip grazed in situ.

Medium dry matter varieties tend to have a higher percentage of root above ground and can be lifted with a top lifter and therefore have a relatively low dirt tare. These highly palatable roots can be fed whole to stock.

- Why Grow Fodder Beet?
- Huge yields
- Improved milk yields
- · Ideal break crop for cereals
- Palatable and nutritious
- High energy feed
- Can be grazed in situ for outwintering systems
- Clamp and store over winter





Wholecrop

Wholecrop cereals are a versatile addition to beef or dairy diets. Cereals can produce a starch-rich forage crop that is also a good source of effective fibre, essential for good rumen function. Care must be taken to harvest at the optimum time for best results; however, the wide harvest window across the crops means this can be easily managed.

Why Grow Wholecrop?

- Flexible crop to grow and wholecrop can be produced from spring or winter crops
- Ideal year-round feed
- Low protein content means wholecrop cereal grains are an excellent and very palatable complementary feed with either grass or good quality grass silage
- Cost effective to produce
- Can be under-sown with grass seed as part of a reseeding plan
- Wholecrop cereals must be treated with a crop specific additive Magniva Platinum Wholecrop



Sugar Beet

Gahan Sugar Beet is a high dry matter sugar beet, suitable for lift and pit.

This is a next-generation sugar beet with high dry matter content and very high yields. This clean beet has proven very popular countrywide with both contractors & farmers, and it has also proven its ability to drive improvements in animal performance.

- Gahan has very large tops, potentially protecting the crown when harvesting late.
- Bolting resistance is excellent.
- Mildew and rust resistance is also very good.
- Gahan is also Rhizomania tolerant.

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Multi-species Sward

Multi-species swards are a sustainable source of highquality forage.

Multi-species swards produce large quantities of highly digestible forage rich in minerals and high in protein for grazing livestock. Apart from a couple of small fertiliser applications in spring, multi-species swards are almost totally N selfsufficient.

Having a mixture of grass and multi species swards on the grazing platform will ensure a steady supply of the highest quality forage through spring, summer, and autumn, buffering against drought and reducing the cost of forage production.

Download Brochure >



Magniva Platinum Grass Wet

MAGNIVA PLATINUM GRASS WET is recommended For Grass, Clover or Lucerne

Containing both homofermentative and heterofermentative bacteria helps ensure faster preservation when clamped while helping prevent heating and spoilage when the clamp is opened.

Formulated specifically for the challenge of wetter grass silage and difficult to ensile crops such as clover, lucerne and other legumes, MAGNIVA PLATINUM GRASS WET contains a unique combination of proven bacteria which combined with enzymes will ensure:

- A faster and efficient initial fermentation
- A stable clamp which can be opened earlier
- Increased aerobic stability after opening
- More silage to feed due to lower dry matter losses
- Less heating so increased feed value
- Higher true protein retention
- Improved fibre digestion

Download Brochure >

Magniva Platinum Grass Dry

MAGNIVA PLATINUM GRASS DRY is recommended For Grass, Clover or Lucerne

Containing both homofermentative and heterofermentative bacteria helps ensure faster preservation when clamped while helping prevent heating and spoilage when the clamp is opened.

Formulated specifically for the challenge of high dry matter grass silage, MAGNIVA PLATINUM GRASS DRY contains a unique combination of proven bacteria which combined with enzymes will ensure:

- A stable clamp which can be opened earlier
- · Increased aerobic stability after opening
- More silage to feed due to lower dry matter losses
- Less heating so increased feed value
- Reduced contamination with yeast and moulds
- Improved fibre digestion

Download Brochure >



Reduce Your Time And Labour With Silostop® Protective Films & Covers

Protecting your silage from oxygen, wildlife, sunlight and more has never been easier thanks to Silostop protective films and covers.

sing Silostop will ensure you have the best quality silage, with 50% less time and labour than it takes to cover your pit with plastic and tyres. These easy-to-use silage pit solutions are super robust and will last year after year to increase your farm's efficiency and free you up to complete other essential tasks. Silostop users enjoy a high return on investment, reduced environmental impact and improved silage quality. For the best solution to protect your silage from oxygen, birds/

best solution to protect your silage from oxygen, birds/ wildlife, UV light, and more choose from our innovative Silostop range.







<u>SILOSTOP</u> Orange Film > <u>SILOSTOP</u> Anti-UV Cover >

SILOSTOP Values

Innovation

Keeping at the forefront of research and development is key. We utilise unique, research-backed, industry-leading products in combination with exceptional technical support to deliver a reduction in your waste and an increase on your return on investment.

Support

Providing you with peace of mind is our top priority. Our team of technical experts are dedicated to keeping up to date with the latest developments in the field to give you the best support possible throughout your ensiling process, ensuring you get the most out of your silage storage.

Responsibility

We live and breathe people and the planet. Taking care of our team, customers, suppliers, and environment is the beating heart of our business. Engaging in more sustainable practices and processes allows us to build longlasting relationships, reduce our impact on the planet, and actively mitigate your carbon footprint.

For more information on Specialist Nutrition's Silostop range, please call <u>+ 353 (0) 51 833071.</u>





Maximise the value of your grazing

From the grass seed you sow to the silage you make, there are decisions along the way that can greatly impact the quality of your grazing and silage - both of which are directly related to the cost of inputs and production.

Teagasc's Pasture Profit Index (PPI) top grass varieties in Ireland

Teagasc's Pasture Profit Index (PPI), is released every year following trials of the top grass seed varieties, measuring variables such as grass yields, digestibility and persistence.

For the first year ever in 2021, the Index also includes the grazing utilisation trait – how appealing the variety is to grazing cows.

Grazing utilisation is a measure of a varieties ability to be grazed. The 2021 PPI includes a star rating for varieties that have been trialed in Moorepark. Higher star ratings represent better grazing efficiency leading to increased utilisation and greater farm productivity.

Only three of the thirty-four varieties assessed achieved 5 star, with two of them, Xenon and Aspect, produced by Waterford-based DLF – Ireland's only non-State research facility.

5 star grazing utilisation trait

The utilisation of grass grown is a key performance indicator of any farm and each extra tonne of grass utilised is estimated by Teagasc to be worth an additional &256/ha.

The grazing utilisation trait is based on the principle that cows will graze their favourite varieties down to a lower residual height, thus utilising more grass grown. Increasing the number of tonnes of DM grown increases profitability, but only if the animal actually eats the grass!

Maximum grass utilisation can be achieved by selecting the right varieties and mixtures.

What is a NxGen Tetraploid variety?

Both Xenon and Nashota are described as NxGen Tretraploid varieties, but what does this mean.

NxGen varieties have a slender leaf and dense growth habit not associated with traditional tetraploids, combining the grazing ability and quality associated with tetraploids, with the dense slender leaf associated with diploids.



Selecting the right mixture

Specialist Nutrition will help you choose the grass mixture most suitable for your on-farm forage needs. Designed for both grazing and silage, all mixtures have been proven in the fields and parlours of Ireland.

Important considerations when deciding on your grass mixture

- Graze out a variety that delivers 15T is not much use on a farm if the cows won't eat it.
- Yield if the variety grazes out, you want it to produce as much as possible.
- Quality now you have your utilisable yield determined, we want that to be of the highest quality possible
- What the sward will be used for
- The type of land and its baseline fertility



Specialist Grazer HVS

SPECIALIST GRAZE HVS has selected the best-in-class grass mixtures proven to help achieve your production goals, whether producing the highest quality milk, beef or lamb from your herds. A highly versatile mixture with an excellent combination of high yields, quality and persistence

Download Brochure >



Specialist Cut & Graze

SPECIALIST CUT AND GRAZE is a dual-purpose mixture designed for both grazing and silage making. A highly versatile mixture with an excellent combination of high yields, quality and persistence

Download Brochure >



Handling and Storage Guide for Moist and Liquid Feeds

Storing moist feeds

Correct storage and good preservation can be achieved by following the guidelines below:



1. Select the right storage site

Moist feeds are delivered in bulk and tipped in loads of approximately 30 tonnes. The selected storage site should be clean with a firm level surface, preferably concrete as it makes handling and feeding out easier.

2. Best storage practice

Moist feeds should ideally be stored in a three-walled pit as this structure is easier to manage. A long narrow three walled pit is best, as it allows the farmer to work across the feeding face quicker and therefore reduce the time the product is exposed to air.

3. Allow to cool and cover within 24 hours

Moist feeds are delivered straight from the point of production and can be hot on arrival. It is best to let the load cool down before pitting and covering within 24hrs.

Do not leave it stand longer than 24hrs as the air gets in quickly, and the soilage process starts. For multiple loads; get them

into the pit as soon as possible and if necessary, cover your pit temporarily for the night and open the following day again.

4. Ensure an airtight seal

To preserve the feed, correct compaction, covering and sealing is important. To exclude all air, use the loader bucket to compact and smooth the surface of the feed in the pit.

5. Pits must be covered correctly

The exclusion of air is essential when covering a pit. Make sure the top of the pit is smooth and even. Cover with a clean high-grade plastic sheet and weight down the sides and top appropriately. Lastly, make sure the cover does not get damaged.

Whether feeding fresh or pitting, it is important to follow these simple steps to minimise any wastage and maintain the products nutritional value

It is NOT recommended to drive onto fresh, moist feed.

Once compaction is complete, seal the pit with clean, high quality polythene sheets. This should then be covered with mats, truck tyres or sandbags to ensure close contact between the top layer of the feed and the pit cover. This will provide an even airtight seal throughout the entire pit. Lighter car tyres or pallets should be avoided as they may not provide a sufficient seal.

Mixing moist feeds

To give the pit added structure and allow the pit to be piled higher while complimenting the feed's nutritional content, moist feeds can be pitted with other products such as beet pulp, soya hulls, hay and straw. If mixing moist feeds with other products for storage, it is important to ensure the pitting mix does not exceed 65% dry matter content as it cannot be adequately compacted.

Feeding out moist feeds

Once properly pitted, moist feeds can be fed immediately and included within the cattle or dairy cow diet. When feeding from the pit, it is important to keep the face as clean as possible.

Ideally, the exposed pit face should allow the farmer to work back 18" per day in the pit. If using a loading bucket, it is important not to push in at the bottom and lift; as this disturbs the face greatly. Instead, the bucket should be used to cut down from the top, with the material then scooped away. Any loose material should then be pushed together to ensure that it is used next.

Storing Liquid Feeds

Tanks should be built to hold and dispatch bulk liquids and care should be taken to ensure they are cleaned out from time to time to ensure no build-up of sediment. 4 inch diameter pipework is adequate to handle the liquid. Available in lots of 10 tonne or greater.

Pitting Moist Feeds

Secure your winter feed by pitting moist feeds!

Moist feeds are a great addition to farm diets. Whether balancing a high cereal beef diet or buffer feeding a dairy cow, they provide an excellent energy source throughout the year.

Produced from pressed residual grains, evaporated syrup, and a centrifuged cake residue from the whiskey distillation process, moist feeds are an excellent source of protein and highly digestible fibre.

Our pitting season offers an excellent opportunity to secure your winter feed and have the comfort of guaranteed feed availability, particularly during the hectic winter season.

Moist feeds can be ensiled with other products such as beet pulp, soya hulls, hay, and straw at a ratio of 4:1. This helps give the pit added structure and allow the pit to be piled higher while complimenting the feed nutritional content.

If mixing moist feeds with other products for storage, it is important to ensure the pitting mix does not exceed 65% dry matter content as it cannot be adequately compacted.

For best results when pitting moist feeds:

- Select the right storage site a clean, level surface is essential
- If mixing with another product have this organised and on farm
- Allow the feed to cool down and cover within 24 hours your moist feeds will be delivered straight from the point of production and can be hot on arrival. Let it cool before covering and sealing
- Ensure an airtight seal use a loader bucket to smooth and compact before covering with a clean polythene sheet and securing with truck tires, mats, or sandbags.

Meet The Team



Nigel Condell, Liquid Feeds Manager

Nigel Condell is a beef and dairy nutritionist with a strong track record in delivering real results on Irish farms.



As Liquid Feeds

Manager, Nigel specialises in helping dairy and beef farmers get the most from their herd's TMR diets using highly nutritious moist and liquid feed solutions. He is highly experienced in both dairy and beef farm management and is an expert in reading dairy cow signals related to health, well-being, nutrition, and production.

For Nigel, helping to consistently improve performance in animals is his key driver. To achieve that goal, he is always committed to learning new ways to boost dairy and beef nutrition.

"There's no greater pleasure for me than when a farmer says: 'the cows are milking better than they ever have' or 'calving has gone better than ever before'. That's what keeps me 100% committed to always achieving results in the farms I work with."

A member of the Specialist Nutrition technical consultant team since 2017, Nigel is constantly seeking innovative methods to deliver optimal results on some of the most progressive farms in the Midlands and South East.

"I've been ten years on the road as a beef and dairy nutritionist and I'm still learning — there's always something new, something innovative in animal nutrition. It's certainly never boring."

Nigel has experienced tremendous results through innovations in grass technology, and from the introduction of amino acids into dairy cow diets.

"Feeding amino acids in diets is an exciting recent development in Irish dairy farming. I've seen first-hand how this is helping to improve milking results and milk quality.

"Adding amino acids directly into a cow's diet not only fuels high performance in dairy cows; it also supports improved environmental sustainability. This is because using amino acids reduces the need for crude protein in cows' diets, and that in turn reduces the excretion of urinary nitrogen. In this way, it's a win-win situation for the agriculture industry generally.

Introducing the use of multi-species and red clover swards in grassland have yielded impressive gains for Nigel's clients.

"The whole idea of using multi species and red clover swards in grass for grazing is something I've been working with clients on in recent years. For instance, we've seen swards including grass, chicory, plantain, and some other mixes, produce fantastic results. They have proven to be more drought tolerant, reduce risk of leaching, dramatically cut or in some cases eliminate the need for nitrogen fertiliser, have very high palatability for animals, and provide very positive health benefits in cattle. Helping to introduce this approach is something I've enjoyed working with farmers on because they've seen very positive results."

A native and resident of Pike of Rushall in Co Laois, Nigel has a solid background in animal and crop production. He is a graduate in Agricultural Science from University College Dublin.

Nigel worked in the UK as a dairy and beef nutritionist before joining Specialist Nutrition as Liquid Feed Manager.

Even though Nigel's parents did not own a farm, there is a strong tradition of agriculture in his wider family, and he has been involved in farming all of his life.

An interesting fact about Nigel's family background in agriculture is that his great uncle Edwin Victor Condell, a World War II veteran who farmed in Kildare, sold the very first modern day combine harvester in Leinster from his machinery dealership. Today, the dealership EV Condell is still going strong in Portlaoise.

To arrange an on-farm visit from Nigel Condell and find out how you can maximise your livestock performance, please contact Specialist Nutrition on + 353 (0) 51 833071.

For expert advice from Nigel and the team or to request a farm visit, call us on + 353 (0) 51 833071.

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