SCOTMIN NUTRITION

Focus

Our Informative Quarterly Newsletter
Issue 24 **Spring 2024**

Main Story:
Methane–Reducing Additive Bovaer®

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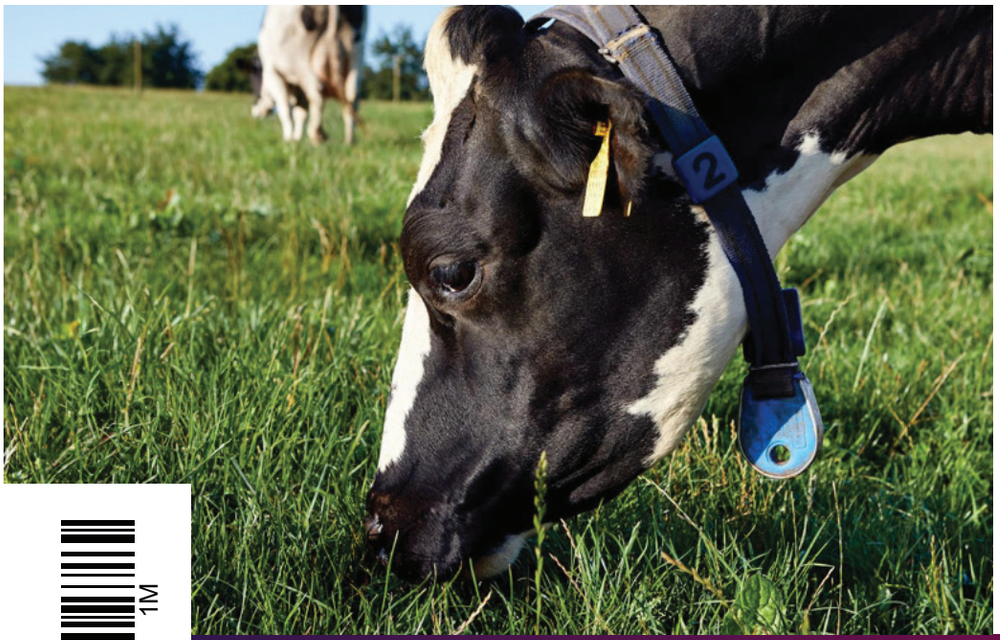
Methane–Reducing Additive Bovaer® Available at Scotmin

The need to reduce methane at a global level is constantly in the press, and it's well-known that agriculture has a role to play in this. Dairy, beef and sheep are under particular scrutiny, due to their physiology, the rumen naturally producing methane as a by-product of fermentation: 'enteric' methane.

We can debate whether this is fair or not, and our position in context to other industries, but however we look at it, methane levels should be reduced, and it's surely better to get started sooner rather than later! Several milk processors and retailers are financially incentivising dairy farmers to reduce the carbon footprint of milk production as an effective strategy to move towards net zero.

There's lots of research and development work going on in the industry at the moment, as companies strive to find solutions to help the UK deliver on its commitments to the Global Methane Pledge, signed in November 2021. There's a heavy reliance on developing new feed additive technologies to provide solutions to reduce the level of enteric methane. Of these, **dsm-firmenich's 'Bovaer®'** product is leading the way.



dsm-firmenich have undertaken comprehensive research and development in Bovaer® to gain approval for feeding to dairy cows by both the European Feed Safety Authority, and the UK Food Standards Agency. No other feed additives currently available in the EU and UK are approved as methane inhibitors. dsm-firmenich has already successfully completed large scale practical farm pilots across the EU (NL, DK, SE, BE, DE, FR, ES) which have shown the product is ready to be scaled up further in practice. With the UK market approval received end of 2023, dsm-firmenich is now working at scaling its use also in the UK, working together with selected milk processors. Bovaer® is being supplied onto farm through the customer's usual mineral & vitamin formulation, and by the customer's usual mineral supplier.

Scotmin are involved in this process, both for our direct farmer customers that are taking part in the trial work, and for our trade customers too.

So if your milk processor asks you to take part, Scotmin can help. We have the contacts and expertise to work with dsm-firmenich and calculate appropriate supplementation rates for you. We will shortly have the product in stock and can blend it quickly and easily into your usual mineral delivery!

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ANIMAX Tracesure® Boluses Now Available

We are delighted to partner with ANIMAX to offer our customers the very best in bolus supplementation. ANIMAX is a world-class innovator of precision nutrition bolus technologies; providing enough essential trace elements daily over a sustained period to support animal health and performance.

The ANIMAX Tracesure® range offers unique diffusion technology® to ensure a consistent and controlled release of trace elements for up to 6-months.

Unlike other boluses the ANIMAX Tracesure® range is designed to maintain its size, reducing the risk of the bolus being regurgitated or passed prematurely. The trace elements have been selected for how readily they can be used by the animal to help maximise grass and forage utilisation.

The ANIMAX Tracesure® range available includes:

- ANIMAX Tracesure® Calf
- ANIMAX Tracesure® Cattle
- ANIMAX Tracesure® Cattle XL
- ANIMAX Tracesure® Sheep
- ANIMAX Tracesure® Lamb

All featured products are available with or without copper, as copper oxide.

Speak to a member of our team today to find out more or visit our website to download the latest Scotmin brochure.

Animax Tracesure® Calf | **Animax Tracesure® Cattle** | **Animax Tracesure® Cattle XL** | **Animax Tracesure® Sheep** | **Animax Tracesure® Lamb**

Dale's Diary

As 2024 starts we are seeing low milk prices and ever—increasing input costs. This tends to lead us to thinking about how we save money on inputs to try and offset lower output prices. Unfortunately, we often see this resulting in the reduction of so-called peripherals. Products such as yeasts, buffers, salt, silage additives, biotin and mycotoxin binders. In my opinion the wrong things to cut.

I believe we should consider trying to improve forage quality and reduce the need for bought in feeds but make sure we maintain animal health and therefore productive capability.

A recent example of this was on a beef farm buying barley and protein but feeding only straw as the forage. The farm had ample quality grass silage but was not utilising it.

So, we reduced ad lib barley feeding and introduced grass silage to the diet. Animals were still performing but on a reduced input cost. Cash flow was improved, and overall profitability increased. This does rely heavily on quality silage and that is why I would always recommend using a forage additive to ensure whatever is put in the clamp is well preserved and palatable.

At Scotmin we believe using Bonsilage forage additives is always worthwhile bearing in mind at around £1.00-£1.30/tonne of treated forage it is the cheapest way to ensure your forage is as good as possible.

Essentially a dairy cow eating 10 tonne of forage over a winter would cost as little as £10-£13 per head.

Now there's something to think about.

Experts in Livestock Nutrition

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