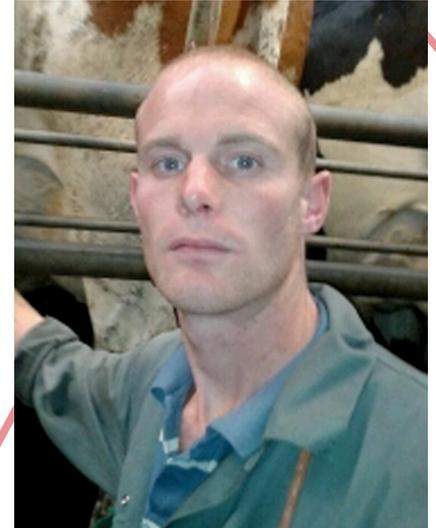




QLF plays vital role in ration

We are a 350 acre, 180 cow dairy operation in mid Cornwall on a grass based system. We have been feeding QLF molasses for a couple of years now and I think it plays a vital roll in the ration, especially this winter due to wet weather resulting in poor summer silages. With the silage being very wet with 'ok' proteins all three cuts have been lacking in energy with our best silage only coming out at 10.8 ME.



Working closely with our QLF account manager throughout the winter and by feeding QLF TMR we have supplied much of our protein whilst achieving a higher level of energy from our blend thus plugging the obvious gap.



Due to the high rises in the price of Soya this has also meant I can keep the cost of the overall ration down as well as increasing palatability and therefore intakes.

We were forced to house our cows by the end of August because of unsustainable amounts of mastitis, zero grazing was a necessity to ensuring our silage stocks would last. This was a new method to us but we were delighted with the results, so now, just as our best silage has run out we have started cutting and carrying grass again. This can be very time consuming but it would be a shame to let the milk yield drop so close to turn out. All things considered my cows have milked very well this winter.



By spring we will be switching back to a lower protein molasses. To achieve a better feed conversion efficiency from grass. We find it essential to feed a buffer ration after the end of each milking, made up of; dry silages, hay/haylage straw and blend plus QLF molasses to bind it all together preventing any sorting. Each cow will get about 5kgs of mix at each end of the day (depending on grass availability) and this is usually cleared within a few minutes which allows more time for grazing. Before we started using QLF the cows would ignore the ration and stand at the gate waiting to go to grass!

“Working closely with our QLF account manager throughout the winter and by feeding QLF TMR we have supplied much of our protein whilst achieving a higher level of energy from our blend” Tom Angwin.

