



With milk price under pressure this summer, cost effective production is vital. Using molasses can help achieve this by maximising forage intake, fibre digestion helping optimise rumen function. All of which contribute to efficient milk production

**Molasses
The
Essential
Ingredient**

Fibre Digestion: Getting it right.

With the current low milk price it is vital to make the most of home grown forage (Maize/Grass/Lucerne etc.). Forage is the lowest cost feed available to livestock farmers. Therefore maximising the fibre digestion of home grown forages is vital for cost effective milk production or live weight gain. Adding sugar to replace a proportion of the starch has been shown to increase fibre digestion (see table below). Ideally the starch to sugar ratio should be around 3:1 for optimal rumen function. This can only be achieved by adding additional sugars to the ration. Liquid Cane Molasses is the best choice in terms of sugar content, ease of use and overall cost effectiveness. The amount of molasses used will depend on the base level of sugar in the ration. Typically feeding 1-2kg is normal. Adding

molasses to the TMR is simple and easy to do to make sure the optimum sugar level (and starch to sugar ratio) can be achieved.

It was found that **increasing the level of sucrose** and reducing the percentage of starch in the ration there is an **increase** in the **NDF digestibility**

Sugars	2.6 %	4.9 %	7.4 %
Starch	31.4 %	29.1 %	27.5 %
Digestibility, %			
D.M.	63.6	62.1	65.4
NDF	36.3	36.3	44.6
ADF	42.2	43.4	49.6

Broderick and Radloff 2004

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