



Norvite Strikes Gold

The Norvite blending plant at South Blackbog, Oldmeldrum, has seen a number of developments and improvements over the past few years. A recent investment has been the installation of a bulk liquid handling system. Ed Smith, Managing Director, said "I am very enthusiastic about the introduction of this product. Moist Blends are a new string to our bow, and build on a great range of high performance blends which have proved popular and successful."

Liquid co-products from the distilling industry have been widely used as stock feed and are usually very good value per nutrient. However, they have had a limited market due to concerns about the inconsistency of product and inconvenience of handling.

Norvite has overcome both these objections by securing a very consistent evaporated spent wash from a single source, the Loch Lomond in Glasgow. It is a rich golden caramel colour, hence the name Loch Lomond Gold. As it comes from only one distillery where the centrifugal process and evaporation are controlled to provide a fixed dry matter, the product is very consistent. In simple terms Loch Lomond Gold is a liquid version of Wheat Distiller's Dark Grains. So long as the dry matter is accounted for it can be treated as an equivalent source of energy and protein.

Moist blends based on Loch Lomond Gold are used widely in South West Scotland and further afield in the Midlands, but this is a novel approach for the North East. Nicky Scott from Millbuie was keen to try it out. Nicky is very committed to milking cows and sees a positive future for the dairy sector - plans are well on their way to expand the Millbuie herd from 150 to 250 cows plus followers. He also recognises the need to control costs and welcomes the need for a fresh approach.

Dairy Gold Blend will strike a chord with farmers who are facing pressure on margins due to falling milk price ex farm, and rising cost of protein feed materials. Norvite's Technical Manager, David McClelland said, "Dark Grains are a great product, but the cost of drying them and the premium being charged for the convenience of a good pellet has got to be questioned. I am sure this particular approach to feeding the modern dairy cow will suit some systems. At Norvite we strongly believe in an innovative and proactive approach to cutting feed costs without cutting corners on the quality."

At the end of January, Norvite held a meeting at its Blackbog site to view the new facilities and to introduce dairy farmers from around the North East to Dairy Gold Blend. Nicky Scott discussed his experience and the results of feeding moist blend in practice. Other advances in dairy cow nutrition were presented by local Meldrum vet, Randal Mathers. He focused on reduction of Somatic Cell Counts related to mycotoxin control and considered preventative action in a number of recent case studies in the North East of Scotland.

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