



Triticale is a proven alternative supplementary feed to wheat and barley

Background:

Triticale is a cereal crop that is grown successfully under dryland conditions and in marginal areas that are less favourable for wheat and barley production. Annually we are experiencing increased production creating a greater opportunity to supply dairy farmers.

Feeding triticale to dairy cows in New Zealand is not as common as in Australia but it is a proven alternative supplement to wheat and barley.

Features:

- For dairy farmers, triticale grain delivers a viable high energy, moderate protein alternative to wheat or barley grain.
- Triticale will support similar milk solids and cow body condition gain responses to those achieved when feeding wheat. This is certainly the case in New Zealand where grain is fed at lower levels (2 to 3kg per cow per day).

- The chemical composition of triticale is somewhat similar to wheat with comparable levels of MJME, starch, NDF and crude protein. The rate of ruminal degradation of triticale starch is more similar to that of wheat than barley grain.
- Risk of ruminal acidosis from processed triticale feeding is similar to risk seen with wheat feeding.
- Like wheat and barley, triticale requires processing before feeding to cattle. Triticale is slightly softer than wheat and barley meaning it is slightly easier to roll or process without over processing or shattering like wheat.

So... triticale....something to keep an eye out for in the future in the South Island grain industry.

	Daily cow nutrient requirements	Maize	Wheat	Triticale	Barley	PKE	Spring Pasture
DM%	35 - 50	86-90	86 - 90	86 - 90	86 - 90	90	9-18
Soluble Carbohydrates (Starch & Sugars)	30-35 (% diet DM)	70-75	58 - 70	60 – 67	50 - 60	Less than 4	2-4
Crude Protein %	18 - 22	8-12	9 - 16	9 – 16	9 - 16	15 - 18	18-35
Neutral Detergent Fibre (NDF) %	28 - 35	8-13	9 - 15	13 – 16	13 - 30	50 - 65	28-45
Palatability	High	High	High	High	High	Moderate	High

Table 1: Grain feed specifications, spring pasture and high performance dairy cow nutrient requirements.

For more information please contact:

Steve Rooney

Grain Sales Representative

P: 027 545 1507

E: srooney@pggwrightsongrain.co.nz