

# CLARKE'S CORNER

ISSUE 005

Autumn 2018

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## WELCOME!

Hello and welcome to our first edition for 2018! We trust that you had a great break over the Christmas and New Year holidays and got some much needed rest after another busy year.

In this issue we will be covering all things Autumn - from harvest and mobile seed cleaning to dairy feed and Autumn calving.

As we all know, it has been a very dry summer for most of Southland and Otago which has kept our dairy feed manufacturing at a steady pace throughout December and January and will most likely continue into February.

With Opening Weekend of the Duck Shooting season also fast approaching, we have included a great article covering all you need to know about feeding your pond to increase your chances of a successful shoot.

As always, we appreciate any feedback about this newsletter and welcome and suggestions on topics you would like to see more of for future editions.

## IN THIS ISSUE...

- Autumn Dairy Feed
- Feeding Your Duck Pond
- Autumn Calving
- Harvest
- Mobile Seed Cleaning
- Dealing with the Dry

**Got photos to share?**

*Send them to us on Facebook!*



**THE TEAM AT CLARKES SEED AND FEED LTD**





# Autumn Dairy Feed

As we write this, the spot markets for Palm Kernel from several major wholesale suppliers in the South have closed due to unprecedented demand due to the, now official, Southland drought.

The supply of contracted products is also becoming tight so we highly recommend that you get your orders in as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

The demand for feed is also likely to increase the pressure on grain suppliers, who have had below-average harvest yields.

Clarks have contracts available for a full range of feeds and commodities including:

- Palm Kernel Extract (PKE)
- Dried Distillers Grain (DDG) either maize or wheat based
- High Starch Wheat Pellets
- Dairy Pellets and Meals
- Bulk Molasses



**For more information call Garry 027 453 4066 or Brian 027 281 8643**



Don't forget our special on  
**Dunstan Beta Beet**

**now \$39.95**

*While stocks last!*







# FEEDING FOR SUCCESS

*With Opening Weekend just around the corner, we have a few helpful hints on how to correctly feed your duck pond to maximise your chances of successful hunting.*

## WHAT DO I FEED?

During the autumn and winter months the majority of food eaten by ducks are seeds, vegetation and grain if it is available. We all know that ducks head to stubble paddocks in large numbers to collect the waste grain that is often present. This is due to the grain providing a source of high energy that is needed over the winter months.

Feeding grain in wetlands can take advantage of the birds' desire for an easy meal, particularly when it is of preferred grain feeds. Most grain is suitable for duck feed and even floor sweepings, old dressings or any waste material from a feed and grain merchant will produce good results. If given a choice however, ducks prefer **peas, barley and wheat** in that order of preference.

## FEEDING YOUR POND

Do not stalk the pond and shoot at birds that have arrived early or may be sitting during the day as this will only serve to scare any birds in the area, most of which may not return, regardless of continuous feeding. Hunting overcomes the urge to feed for any duck where large quantities of quality feed are available to eat.

When selecting a pond to feed it is important to make sure that the pond provides you with a good view of the sky and that you can hunt from under a cover, if possible. This is important as ducks usually come right on dark and are very difficult to see. For this reason it is important to shoot incoming ducks rather than wait for them to land.

## SHOOTING YOUR POND

Almost any hunting area can be fed with grain as long as the water is not too deep to prevent ducks reaching the feed on the bottom. The ideal depth for feed is from 2cm to around 30cm deep. Feed should be scattered widely around the edge of the pond or the hunting area to ensure that ducks have a good chance of locating the feed and have to work as little as possible.

A small amount of grain can be scattered around the edge of the pond as well, this will let you know if birds have been using the area or not. It is often easy however to tell if birds have been feeding at the pond as the margins will be disturbed, vegetation chewed off and feathers may be scattered around as a result of contented ducks preening after feeding.

By far the best areas to feed are shallow ponds that provide some cover for hunting and allow a clear view of approaching birds on dusk or near dark. The pond should, ideally, be well away from disturbance to prevent scaring the ducks away or other people finding and hunting your pond. However, public wetlands can be fed successfully, particularly for the opening weekend or both morning and evening hunting.

Feeding well will often attract ducks to stay in areas that have sufficient cover or no disturbance right throughout the day and can also develop familiarity of the area with the birds, which enhances the chances of them returning once shooting starts on opening weekend.

The amount of grain you feed will depend on the size of the area and the number of ducks you have hanging around. Usually half a bucket of grain every couple of days should be sufficient, however if you are not able to feed the area regularly and can only visit at weekends, one to two buckets of grain should be fed out to ensure that the ducks have enough feed during the week. It is a waste of time and money feeding ducks for half the week, only to have them leave once the food has run out.

A great alternative is to use an automatic feeding system which will be available from your local hunting supplies shop. Clarkes Seed & Feed have top quality Duck Tuckers, designed with these systems in mind, that will flow through feeders without blocking the opening.



## CLARKES DUCK TUCKER

25 kgs

Machine Cleaned

Barley/Wheat/Peas Mix

**\$20.00 each or 5 for \$90.00**

## LITE FEED OATS

Approx 150 - 200 kg bulk bags

**15c per kg** (approx \$30)

POA for multiple bags

**IN STOCK  
NOW**



## Preparing for **Autumn Calving**



With Autumn fast approaching it is time to start considering what you will be feeding your Autumn-born calves.

Correct and proper nutrition is essential for raising healthy, happy calves. A muesli-type meal should be offered to calves from one week of age and gradually increased until they are consuming roughly 1kg of grain-based feed per day. Feeding a meal alongside colostrum or milk powder will maximize rumen development, which is a hugely important factor for the later stages in life.

At Clarkes, we offer a nutritious and palatable range of calf feeds for all life stages. Our feeds range from Muesli Meal Mix, High Protein Pellets to Weaner Pellets - we have a product to suit every need and budget.

We also stock Milligans Classic Milk Re-placer (20 kgs) which, like our calf feeds, can be purchased per bag or in tonne lots depending on the amount of calves you are raising.

For more information about how we can assist you in maximizing the full potential of your calves, you can get in touch with us by phoning the office on **03 214-3104** or contact our feed representative **Brian McDonagh** on **027 281 8643** for advice and samples.





# Harvest

Winter sown barley has been harvested three to four weeks early this year, with the first of the new season barley being harvested towards the end of December and then being received to us instore for manufacturing on January 3rd - which is a new record for Southland. Spring sown grains are looking to be harvested earlier also, roughly within the next coming weeks.

The grain is in good condition, although average to lower yields seem to be normal this season.

## Mobile Seed Cleaning

With the winter sown barley being harvested early, we can expect that the demand for Mobile Seed Cleaning may potentially be a few weeks earlier this year.

On-farm dressing and treating of farmer's own seed is a service started by Allan Clarke over 37 years ago and has continued to be a service that we offer to clients from Southland and Otago over the years. This is a great way for arable farmers to save on seed costs.

Hannah has been busy in the office preparing the co-ordination of on-farm work and doing in-house germination tests for our local growers. With the work stacking up, please call the office and advise us of any requirements you have to avoid delays with planting and dispatch of new seed orders.

## DEALING WITH THE DRY

### Dairy Cow Management

- Graze cows in paddocks closer to the milking shed to reduce the distance and time spent walking
- Don't push cows too hard when moving them, let them go at their own pace
- If possible, start milking later in the afternoon when the temperature has dropped slightly
- Provide as much shade as possible
- Provide supplementary feeds where possible
- Allow constant access to clean, fresh water at all times

### Other Stock

- Allow constant access to clean, fresh water at all times
- Provide as much shade as possible
- Supplement feed if there is not enough grass available - this can be in the form of roughage (hay, baleage, chaff etc), pelleted feeds or whole grains
- Monitor your animals for any sign of heat stress or heat related sickness
- Keep unnecessary exercise to a minimum

