

Focus

Our Informative Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 28 Spring 2025

Main Story:
25 Years at
Scotmin

Main Story



Celebrating 25 Years at Scotmin

Scotmin Sales Manager Douglas Watson celebrates 25 years of working at Scotmin on the 27th March 2025. Congratulations to Douglas on achieving this anniversary with us and thank you for being such a valuable member of our Scotmin team. Wishing you the best for continued success!

To mark the occasion, we caught up with Douglas and asked him to reflect on the **last 25 years:**

What is the biggest change/s you've seen in agriculture in the past 25 years?

Advancements in technology and genetics. Robotic milking systems are now commonplace on dairy farms, as well as arable farmers now having access to use drones for crop spraying.

25 years ago, average yields would be around 7–8000kg, with 10,000kg being the holy grail, but the improvements in livestock genetics has increased this to 12–14,000kg, with many more cows now reaching 100,000kg in their lifetime.



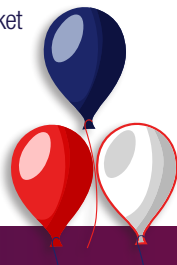
What is the best part of your role?

Seeing both customers and colleagues flourish. There is no better feeling than seeing long standing customer's businesses improve through time, knowing you have helped in part of that journey. This also applies to colleagues/new employees helping them out whenever I can. A lot of customers and colleagues, both past and present have become friends over the years, and I truly think this will continue once I decide to hang up my boots!



Which is your favourite Scotmin product?

I don't think I have a favourite single product, but I would say that the MEGASTART range does what it says on the tin. These products are second to none in the market and prove time and again to work.

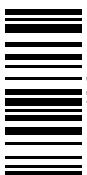


The countdown is on!



We're looking forward an exciting 2025 show season, take a note of the following dates and come and join us for a catch-up and some light refreshments. Keep an eye on our socials and website for further updates.

- Ayr Show _____ 10th May
- Biggar Show _____ 19th July
- Border Union Show _____ 25th & 26th July
- Stranraer Show _____ 30th July
- Wigtown Show _____ TBC August
- Dumfries Show _____ 2nd August
- Kelso Tup Sale _____ 12th September
- Agriscot _____ 19th November
- LiveScot _____ 21st & 22nd November





Dale's Diary

Grass staggers – do not run the risk

If you are turning out to grass don't forget GRASS STAGGERS. Just because you have not seen it for several years does not mean it will not appear again. Look out for nervous, fidgety cows, which indicates borderline staggers or in other words a shortage of magnesium.

Options:

1. Add Cal Mag to any buffer feed (minimum 50gms/head/day)
2. Increase magnesium level in your mineral
3. Place MEGALIX Quattro Mag tubs out in the fields – Avoid the risk of grass staggers this spring by using MEGALIX Quattro Mag the UK's first magnesium tub that boasts **four sources of highly bio-available magnesium**
4. Add Mag chloride flakes to water supply
5. Talk to your local Scotmin expert

Obviously grazing will feature as a key to milk production this year especially with continued low milk prices. However, do not overestimate the production possibilities of grass as this can lead to a multitude of problems including an increased risk of grass staggers.

PRODUCTION GUIDELINES FROM FORAGE

| Production From Forage (Lts) | Forage Quality | Description |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Maintenance + 5 litre milk production per/day | Poor | Mature grazing |
| Maintenance + 10 litre milk production per/day | Medium | Late summer grazing Overgrazed grass <3cm |
| Maintenance + 15 litre milk production per/day | Good | 4–6cm decent grazing (spring/summer) |
| Maintenance + 20 litre milk production per/day | Excellent | 8–10cm young, spring grazing |

Reduce the Grass Staggers Risk this Spring with MEGALIX Quattro Mag

MEGALIX Quattro Mag Cattle contains four sources of highly bio-available magnesium. Two quickly available sources are combined with two slow releasing sources giving livestock the ultimate protection against staggers. The inclusion of AGMA FG85 Calcined Magnesite, the leading magnesium

source on the market, makes MEGALIX Quattro Mag Cattle the most bio-available magnesium supplement available.

With a unique blend of vitamins, minerals and trace elements, MEGALIX Quattro Mag is the complete supplement to balance spring grass.

MEGALIX Quattro Mag Sheep is also available, featuring all the benefits of MEGALIX Quattro Mag Cattle, however does not include copper.

Buffer feeding will be required where production outstrips grass capabilities, but it is essential the buffer is designed to balance grazing.

| | Grazing | Grazing + forage | Grazing + forage + brewers grains |
|------------------------------|---------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Effective stocking rate (ha) | 5.8 | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| Milk Yield Lts | 18.7 | 14.6 | 18.9 |
| Fat% | 3.73 | 4.21 | 4.03 |
| Protein% | 3.73 | 4.21 | 3.29 |
| Total DMI (kgs) | 14.3 | 13.7 | 15.8 |

This table reflects several research studies but shows how important it is to get the balance right on the buffer feed if it is going to work properly and not just substitute grazing.

So, the key messages are:

- Don't forget grass staggers
- Supplement with magnesium accordingly
- Assess grazing production accurately
- Balance buffer feeds correctly

Now there's something to think about.



Available in 20kg and 80kg tubs, ask our team about our MEGALIX Quattro Mag range

MEGALIX Quattro Mag Sheep is also available, featuring all the benefits of MEGALIX Quattro Mag Cattle, however does not include copper.

Questions?

Scotmin are here to ensure that our farmers achieve enhanced profits through promoting maximum performance. Our team of livestock experts are available to provide you with create an effective solution for your livestock supplementation needs.

Email info@scotmin.com with your enquiries.