Brewers’ Grains

TYPICAL ANALYSIS (Dry Matter Basis except DM)
- Dry Matter 24 %
- Crude Protein 24 %
- Oil 7 %
- NDF 62 %
- Starch 5 %
- Sugar 2 %
- ME 11.7 MJ/kg DM
- Bulk density 1000-1300 kg per cubic metre

PRODUCT DETAIL
- Protein and Energy succulent
- Good source of digestible fibre to improve rumen fermentation
- Very palatable and has been shown to enhance dry matter intakes
- Ideally suited for milk production helping maintain rumen function
- Excellent feed for beef cattle, particularly as part of Grainbeet
- Easily stored and incorporated into many feeding systems

PRODUCT BACKGROUND
Brewers’ Grains is a co-product produced in the production of beer. The intake of malt is allowed to soak in warm water to remove the sugars as “wort” with the fibrous and protein residue being separated off as Brewers’ Grains. Though occasionally dried in the past, most Brewers’ Grains (or Draff in Scotland) are moved straight to farm as a pale brown moist feed.

HANDLING AND STORAGE
Whether fed fresh or ensiled, it is essential to exclude all air and water from the silo to successfully store the product. The following information is useful when considering either method:
- The product should be stored on a clean, dry concrete base.
- The surface should be well compressed by means of tractor-mounted bucket, or be well trodden, to exclude as much air as possible.
- The load should then be covered with a clean plastic sheet and be evenly weighted with Secure Covers, straw bales or the like (tyres are not ideal).
- If the surface covering is not complete, a mould inhibitor on the upper surface is desirable.
- Ensure the open face of the silo is kept clean and tidy and the area exposed to the atmosphere is small.

Failure to ensile properly may result in mould growth, loss of dry matter and a reduction in the nutritive value of the clamp.

FEEDING
Brewers’ Grains can be fed to most farm livestock in a wide range of feeding situations. Whether used as part of a total mixed ration (TMR), as a sole concentrate feed or even as a forage replacer, care should be taken to ensure a good long fibre source is present.

Dairy Cows – Can be used at levels up to 20 kg per head per day.
Beef Cattle – Again very flexible, with levels up to 20 kg per head per day and, when mixed with Dried Sugar Beet Feed as Grainbeet, producing a feed which is almost complete except for long fibre, vitamins and minerals.
Sheep – Up to 3 kg per head per day can be used for ewes and fattening lambs.
Pigs – Can be used as a source of fibre for sows up to 3 kg per head per day.

Note:
Brewers’ Grains should be only be used in diets where recommended by a suitably qualified person. Furthermore, as feeding is only one part of overall animal influence, no performance guarantees can be made.