

# THE RESULT IS IN THE MIX

## Get it right, every time.

Using a gentle mixing action to produce a consistent, thoroughly mixed feed, KEENAN MechFiber mixer wagons are unique in the proven nutritional benefits they deliver.

In combination with InTouch nutrition support, you can be assured that your animals will be receiving the correct ration every day, delivering significant improvements in herd health and animal performance.

# KEENAN<sup>®</sup>

an **Alltech** company

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## Beef, Sheep & Lambing

Feed conversion efficiency in beef production can range from 60–300kg of growth per tonne of DM.

## Taking control of your feed costs

**A well-mixed ration can significantly reduce feed cost/kg gain, through improvements to feed conversion efficiency, Keenan says.**

Feed is the most significant cost of producing beef and, as such, has an important bearing on total feed cost/kg gain. When determining the cost of home-grown feeds, input costs such as fuel and fertiliser should be considered, as well as other cost contributors to overall yield, utilisation and the avoidance of waste.

For purchased feeds, the cost is largely dependent upon buying decisions, although it is essential to minimise/avoid wastage, particularly with moist feeds. Out of these feed input costs, the most important factor affecting overall feed cost/kg gain is feed conversion efficiency (FCE).

By targeting, estimating and controlling FCE, you can achieve significant reductions in feed cost/kg gain, especially in the finishing period, when FCE is often poorer due to the increased energy costs of fat deposition. It follows that measurement and improvement of FCE should be a major key performance indicator of beef production.

Keenan MechFiber diet feeders are unique in the proven nutritional benefits they deliver. Each is engineered to use a gentle mixing action to produce an evenly and thoroughly mixed, light and fluffy ration that is never over- or under-processed.

Independent trials show that the MechFiber ration retains the fibre structure to stimulate rumination, allowing greater absorption of energy and maximised FCE. Its composition also slows the passage of feed through the digestive tract. Synced to the InTouch feed management

platform, the Keenan controller ensures all feed ingredients are consistently added in the correct order and ratio.

By improving FCE through the provision of a well-mixed ration, rumen function can be optimised, even in situations where diets show high levels of starch.

The system's impact in terms of loading and mixing accuracy applies equally to beef and dairy systems. However, assessing FCE within the context of a beef system is not as immediately apparent because weight gain cannot be recorded daily. At best, an assessment would have to be made based on weights taken at 3–4-week intervals, but many farmers do not weigh cattle regularly.

Using well-developed models to predict animal growth from several easily defined inputs, the InTouch system can monitor weekly performance, predict FCE, measure total feed costs and provide an estimation of total feed cost/kg gain. This data informs decisions on the most appropriate feeding strategy. **FG**



Keenan MechFiber Mix.