

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MIX!

Alex Steen runs a 190 cow dairy herd together with his father George in the Clogher Valley in Tyrone. An all year round calving operation, cows are currently producing 26 litres with 4.0% butterfat and 3.1% protein. Concentrate is fed on a flat rate basis with all of it going through the wagon. Going forward, Alex would like to get the herd settled with around 200 cows producing a rolling average of 8,000 litres.

Two years ago, Alex decided to update his old horizontal mixer. Looking around the market, he felt that the Keenan paddle mixer was best suited to his operation. He wanted consistency of diet, control over his feeding regime and a simple yet reliable machine. The Keenan Mech-fiber® 340 with PACE® Connect controls met and exceeded his expectations. "It's done a good job and having PACE® Connect on it means no more feed sheets.

I get consistency no matter who feeds. The rations are all there and adjustments are easy to make." We do all our own silage making on the farm so during these busy times, it is important that even with someone else feeding the cows are still getting the same diet".

"We feed a grass silage based TMR all year round here and the aim is always to maximise the efficiency from silage. I feel we get that with the Keenan; it handles the silage well and gives a good consistent mix".

"I have been very happy with the benefits that the Keenan System has brought. The heifers are looking a lot better, metabolic diseases are non-existent and as for the dry cows, and fresh calvers, they just motor on with no problems. The health status of the herd has definitely improved".

"The inTouch support is great. I just call up if I need any changes done or the internet is down and they are more than willing to help. I suppose the best thing about it is, given that I feed everything through the wagon, they are looking after all the animals for me. This and the consistency of the mix is number 1."

FARM FACTS

Location	Co. Tyrone
Keenan since	2012
No. of cows	190
Yield (kg)	8,167
Solids (kg)	580
Concentrate usage (DM kg)	2,567

K257



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Photograph by Roger Jones