

# Keenan launches first 'intelligent' diet feeder

**R**ICHARD Keenan & Co has just launched the world's most advanced mixer wagon which produces the optimal physical mix for TMR diets, time after time, day after day.

The new iKeenan mixer wagon is the world's first truly intelligent diet feeder which ensures that animals are receiving the optimal physical mix (*Mech-fiber*) every time.

For ruminant animals, (*cattle, cows and sheep*) inconsistent, under or over mixing can impact negatively on performance (*milk yields, live weight gain, feed conversion efficiency*) and herd health.

Under-mixed and there will be sorting at the feed fence and a poor mix of long and short feed particles in the rumen. This will result in poor utilisation of the more nutritionally valuable components of the ration.

Over-mixing of the ration results in small particles and fibres which promotes the rapid production of acids which can lead to a steep fall in rumen pH and a resulting acidosis. In both situations the rumen is not performing at its optimum and as a result milk yields will fall, feed will not be digested as well and cow health is at risk.

The introduction of Keenan's PACE technology in 2008, with its ability to create accurate, consistent rations, was a major step forward. It provided the means to maximise feed efficiency in a controlled and measured format. Now the company has gone a step further to give livestock farmers an unprecedented degree of control over a ration's formulation, its ingredients and its mixing.

The iKeenan is a mixer wagon that incorporates the most innovative technology yet to create the world's first

intelligent mixer wagon that produces accurately mixed rations, time after time, day after day, year after year. The iKeenan intelligently removes the risk of ration variability through the innovative new Pace Connect and AutoStop features.

Pace Connect is a new 'Cloud' web-based system which allows rations to be modified remotely from the nutritionist's office directly to the mixer wagon's control box, for example.

AutoStop is a unique system which shuts down the tractor's PTO drive to the mixer wagon when the required number of paddle revolutions has been completed and the optimal Mech-fiber mix has been created.

Pace provides users with guidance on the order of loading and mixing, and the number of paddle revolutions required to get the optimal mix. Pace draws on Keenan's ingredients data base which separates feed types into eight different categories and then subdivides each category into as many as 37 different groups.

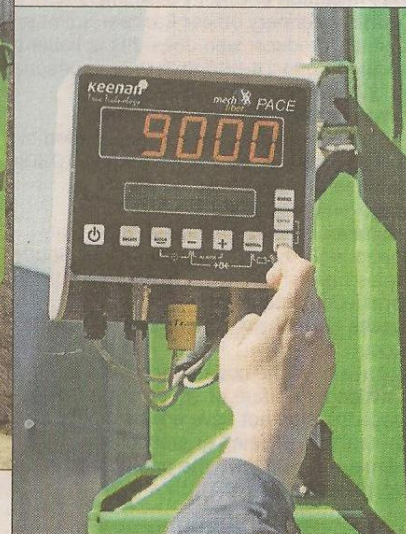
This information is then combined with the size of mixer wagon and the livestock class being fed to provide the correct loading sequence and the paddle revolutions needed. The data base currently holds details on more than 10 million categorised ingredients drawn from over 1,700 farms in a wide range of countries.

Pace Connect utilises the mobile phone network to connect the iKeenan wagon to a secure website that can be accessed by authorised users from anywhere in the world on any web-enabled device.

It allows the farmer or his nutritionist to make ration changes remotely, to review the rations that have been fed



■ **LEFT:** The new iKeenan mixer wagon – the world's first truly intelligent diet feeder.



■ **ABOVE:** Pace Connect is remote web-based management system allowing rations to be adjusted by you or your nutritionist.

and compare that data to critical outputs such as milk yield. This information can form the basis for ration modification

And there is more. The introduction of Auto Stop, an automatic PTO shut-off system which stops the machine mixing when the optimum Mech-fiber mix has been created. Operators no longer have to wait while the paddles clock up the requisite number of rotations.

Auto Stop is available for fitting to tractors which have PTO push button controls located on the rear fender now a feature of most modern tractors. Simple and reliable in its operation, a command from the Pace control box can automatically shut off the tractors PTO

when the optimum mix is ready.

AutoStop eliminates unnecessary paddle revolutions made each day which can lead to significant fuel savings, potentially €1,200 a year was recorded from one research study. In addition, AutoStop reduces the time that the machine has to work at its hardest, when it is full, which will extend the working life of the wagon.

Overall, AutoStop gives the farmer and operator back precious time and peace of mind every day while delivering the perfect mix and saving money.

Farmers have the option of purchasing the iKeenan without nutrition advice or they can choose to get the iKeenan with the Mech-fiber System. The Mech-fiber

System, when correctly and consistently implemented with either a Keenan nutritionist or a recommended partner, can significantly increase the economic performance of dairy operations.

It can increase feed efficiency by five per cent in the first 90 days and 10 per cent over 365 days. This has been proven by over 1,000,000 cows, on 9,800 farms across 25 different countries.