

FOCUS **ON**

# livestock

Comfort, Performance & Profitability



## How do you measure up?

From dairy and beef to pigs and poultry, farms worldwide are profiting from correct preparation of feed rations and provision of comfortable bedding conditions.

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As market leaders in the Feeder Bedder market, Teagle continuously review best practices found in the wide range of applications in which our Tomahawk models are found.

From dairy and beef to pigs and poultry; farms worldwide are profiting from correct preparation of feed rations and provision of comfortable bedding conditions.

**Take a look at our most recent case studies:**

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**Talk to your Feeder Bedder specialist**

Teagle employ around 150 people, most of whom are based at our 15,250m<sup>2</sup> factory near St Agnes in Cornwall.

Teagle now supply around 50% of the UK market for Feeder Bedders with their market leading 'Tomahawk' range. In addition, a similar number of Tomahawks are manufactured each year for export to over 35 countries around the world.



**Tom Teagle, Sales Director**



## “Straw is a very useful feed if prepared in the right way.”

- In dry cow rations it can be used to control energy intake and reduce the risk of milk fever.
- In milking cow rations it can be very useful as physically effective fibre when required.

*“For either group the key to feeding straw is incorporation to create a homogenous mix. Poorly processed straw will not blend which can encourage cows to sort the ration, making the problem worse rather than better. The straw should be pre-processed, and we find milled straw to provide the best results.”*

*Pictured (left to right) Jeremy Hamilton  
& Andy Hawken AMTRA, DipRN  
Three Counties Feeds*





## Straw in Dry Cow Rations

### Feeding straw to dry cows has become a popular strategy to improve health post-calving

“Our results show how beneficial consistently pre-processed straw is in obtaining good dry cow intakes, even over straw that is mixed well in a wagon.”

*James Johns (pictured) farms a herd of 260 high performance Holsteins at Sixty Acre Farm, UK.*

A farm trial was conducted to investigate the benefit of processing straw, before it is added to a total mixed ration (TMR), to increase the dry matter intake for dry cows with high straw inclusions.

The far off dry cow ration contained 6kg (13.2lb) of straw and the transition ration 4kg (8.8lb), the effectiveness of these rations depends totally on good feed intakes.

Control rations were prepared using the mixer wagon to chop and incorporate the straw, as best as this equipment would allow prior to the trial. At this point feeding was already at a high standard.

Without changing anything else the straw was pre-processed to 2.5cm (1 inch) in length. When the cow's intake increased, the portions were increased, with the diet proportions staying constant.



Once the straw was pre-processed the far off dry cows ate 25.9kg (57lb) where before they were eating 21.6kg (47.5lb) - 20% more. The transition group ate 9% more - a significant improvement in this critical stage.

**“With improved and more consistent straw intakes we are better equipped to control metabolic stress in fresh cows, which can cause issues such as retained placenta and metritis. Getting off to a better start these cows have less negative energy balance and sub-clinical ketosis. Straw rations can also help prevent milk fever.”**

*Jeremy Hamilton, Three Counties Feeds*



## Comfort for performance

### Put the priority on quality resting time for your livestock

- Milking herds can gain an additional 1 litre (2.2lb) of milk / day for every additional 1.5 hrs of lying time.

*William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute*

- Beef livestock can see a 30% improvement in liveweight gain in straw beds, compared to those with no bedding.

*Carrington Research Extension*

### The keys to successful bedding

- Bedding management before and during use is more important than bedding material.
- Bedding areas must be well maintained to optimise comfort - with the bedding material replenished 'little and often'.
- When using straw it must be chopped short in cubicles and spread long for loose housing. In both cases it must be prepared to optimise absorbency, livestock support and ground coverage to provide a bed that is 'as close to nature as possible'.



**“Save up to 18.2% of straw usage and reduce the time required to bed cattle by 29.5%.”**

“In addition: the savings with the Tomahawk are increased when using poor quality straw and when the bales are heavy and difficult to handle.”

And in relation to dust; “Although there were consistently higher inspirable dust concentrations from using the straw bedder, they remained less than 10% of the occupation exposure limit of the 10mg/m<sup>3</sup> guideline limit.”

“From the point of view of safety, with 15% of major agricultural injuries being due to working with livestock the benefits are clear.”



## Palatability for Profitability

### Increase intake and improve feed conversion

Research conducted at The Ohio State University found that steers fed a chopped forage diet gained 1.2kg (2.6 lb) / day while those fed the same forage in round bales (same forage source) in a rack gained 0.64kg (1.4 lb) / day, more than an 85% increase in performance.

#### Reasons for the increase include:

- Increased intake - up to 60% greater due to improved palatability.
- Reduce feed waste - up to 15% (as selective feeding reduced).
- Reduce material left wasted in the bedding area. Forage is shredded to muzzle length so whatever the cow takes, it consumes.
- Improved feed conversion - material is more readily digested.
- Reduced nutrient wastage - increased intake ensures that feed does not lie for as long at the barrier, preventing secondary fermentation.





## The Precision Decision - 60% straw saving

Jeff Gibson runs a diverse livestock and farm shop enterprise with his father Mike and brother Andrew at Wingham near Canterbury, Jeff runs the 'versatile' Tomahawk 1010 because "as well as feeding, we use it for strawing the cattle yard and our outdoor pig arcs."

**Measuring Inputs** - "To maximise returns, ration control and straw use are significant factors in helping keep costs in check - and the Tomahawk feeder-bedder is helping in both respects. Adding a weighing system to a machine which dispenses both feed and bedding helps manage both."

**Bedding** - "In winter, we were using 22 bales of straw a week, now we're down to 9, and of course, there will be less dung to dig out and spread when we clear the yards."

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## Specialist Bedding

### Precision process to farrowing success

Paul Whyand operates a Tomahawk 505XLM for his breeding herd of 1100 sows with an eye for detail to ensure conditions for his herd will provide the best performance.

‘There are tremendous benefits in bedding farrowing huts with short straw’. ‘We are seeing an improvement of around 2 piglets/sow/yr through this activity.’



### A straw bed tailored for growing ducks







Ian McAuley is Farm Manager for a large duck rearing unit in Suffolk. The farm uses around 3,000 large Hesston bales every year to ensure the straw bed offers the best in comfort.

Ian says, “The bed must be laid to meet the needs of the ducks’ and with the variable chop length offered with the ‘Dual Chop’ system we can achieve this.”



# The most comprehensive range of Feeder Bedders in the world.

For performance and reliability that incorporates over 30 years experience select a Tomahawk, with many models now featuring the innovative 'Dual Chop' system - long or short straw at the touch of a button.

				<b>APPLICATION</b>			
				TMR/Cubicles/ Poultry/Pigs	Loose Housed Bedding	Feeding	
				Short Straw mm		Long Straw	Silage/Hay
				<50	50-150	-	-
	404M			4040			
			404				
	505M			5050			
			505				
	505XLM			5050XL			
			505XL				
				7150			
					7100		
				8150			
					8100		
				8550			
					8500		
						1010	

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**Attention to detail** - through our focus on developing feeding and bedding machinery over the last 30 years, we are able to offer a machine to fulfil your needs.

**Experience** - thousands of farmers benefit daily from our experience in designing and manufacturing machinery that delivers on performance and reliability.

**Contact Your Local Dealer:**

Teagle Machinery Ltd, Blackwater, Truro, Cornwall, TR4 8HQ, UK  
+44(0)1872 560592    [sales@teagle.co.uk](mailto:sales@teagle.co.uk)    [www.teagle.co.uk](http://www.teagle.co.uk)

*The information provided in this booklet is general in nature and should not be treated as specific advice. Seek further information from local sources prior to implementing change.*

**Teagle**