

Starlings – the issues for dairy farms

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How many birds are found in typical flocks?

- A. 5,000
- B. 10,000
- C. 20,000
- D. 25,000

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Starling's eat....

- A. Insects
- B. Nectar
- C. Worms
- D. Grains

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- A. **Insects**
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- D. **Cereal Grains**



Daily food intake is...

- A. 10 grammes
- B. 15 grammes
- C. 20 grammes
- D. 25 grammes

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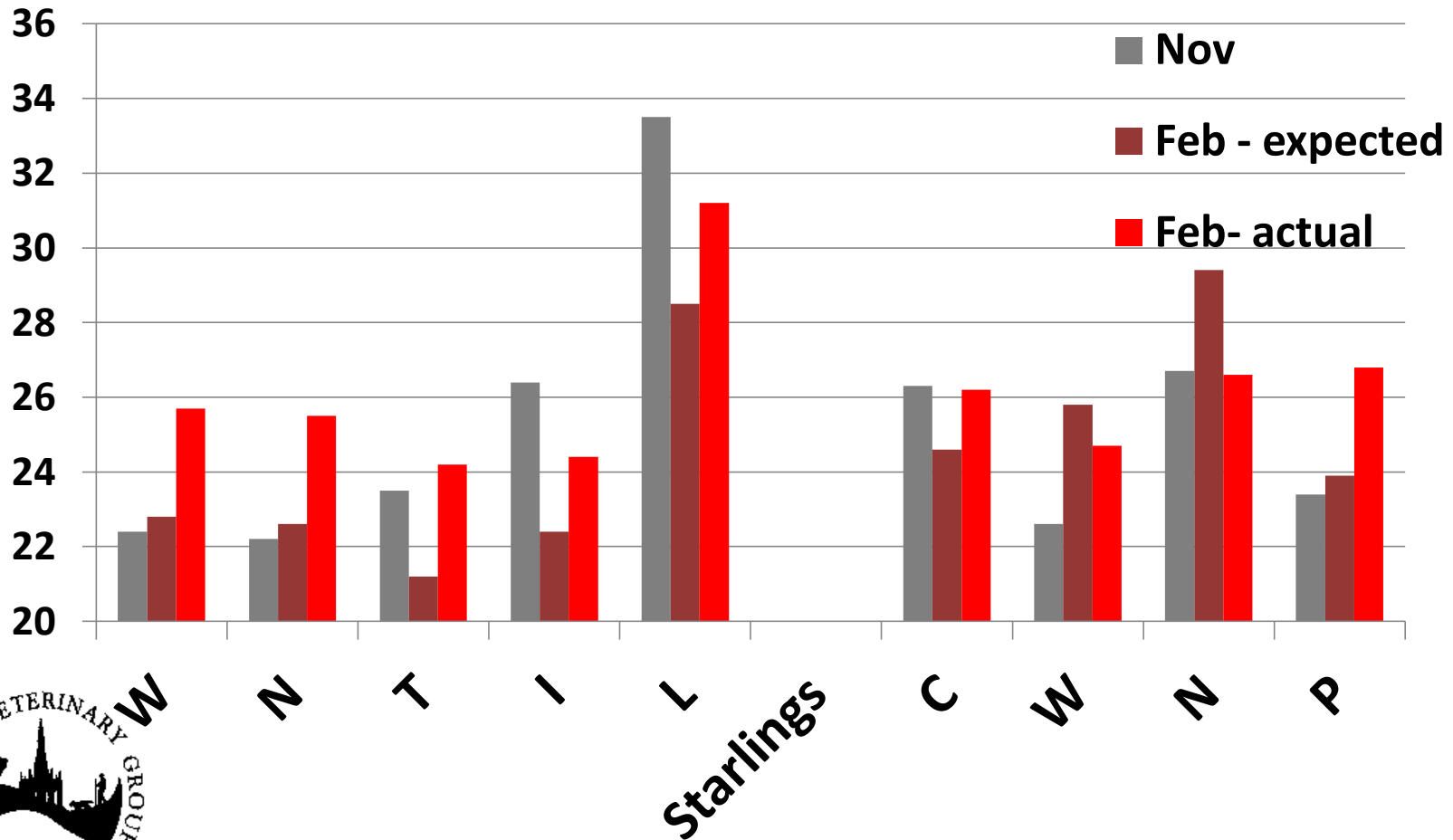
Somerset Levels each Winter

- 3-8 million starlings.....
- 3,000 cattle holdings in Somerset
- 200 affected farms...
- 25,000 birds per affected farm

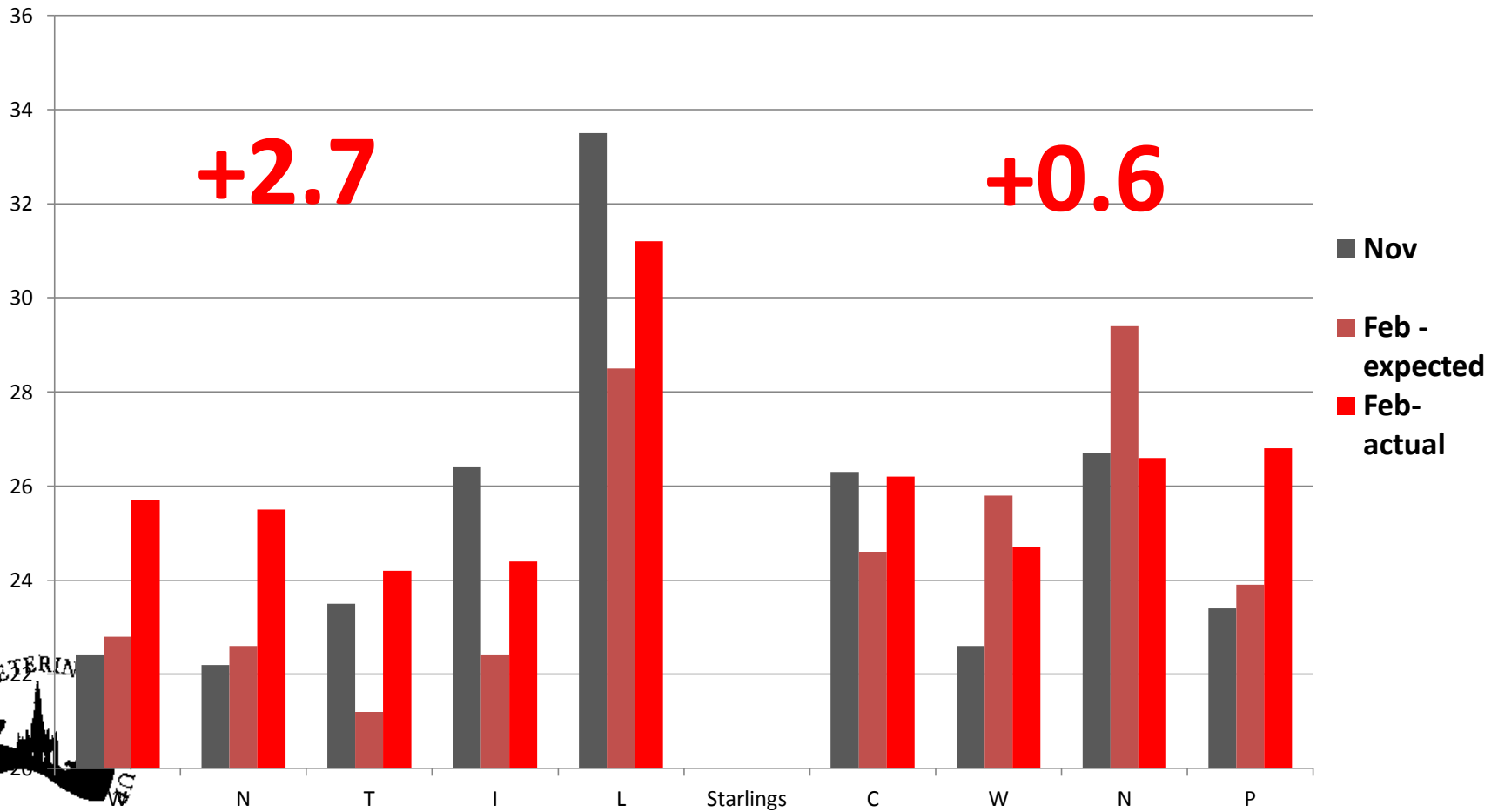
Total daily consumption by a visit of 25,000 starlings....

- **5-600kg of grain** on a dry matter basis
- At a cost of **£90-100 per day**
- Equivalent to feeding **an extra 30 cows** per day

Milk output across practice farms



Overall effect of starlings feeding....



Infectious disease risk

- Fomites – physical spread of infection
- Between cows and between farms
- Faecal-oral spread
- Feed contamination
 - Spoilage
 - Taint
 - Palatability
- Winter dysentery
 - Coronavirus
- Scour and abortion
 - Salmonella (typhimurium, anatum, java)
- Feed spoilage
 - Abortions (Bacterial, fungal)
 - Digestive upsets
- Calf scour
 - Cryptosporidium

Strategies

- Deterrence
 - Shooting (illegal! – Single Farm Payment)
 - Bird scarers
 - Electronic
 - Bangers
 - Bird alarm calls
 - Scarecrows
 - Birds of Prey
 - Feed additives





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Bird Deterrents

Computer-Managed Natural Sounds Scare Away the B

When birds enter the protected area, the deterrent module is triggered, producing an immediate effect on the birds, scaring them away from the c



Available

Bird Scarer BS15

Audible bird scaring using bird alarm, distress & predator cries, up to 20 acres coverage. The standalone model BS15 offers bird control coverage up to 20 acres

£327.82 inc. VAT

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and is supplied pre-programmed with sounds relevant for the type of birds to be repelled and deterred. As with all audible bird repellent devices, the coverage is dependent on the...



Available

Bird Scarer BS3

Audible bird scaring machine with coverage up to 10 acres in flat terrain with low ambient noise. The BS3 bird scarer offers coverage of up to 10 acres and is supplied pre-

£257.33 inc. VAT

£219.00 exc. VAT

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Organo Fresh Plus+ TMR®

- Organic acids to prevent heating and spoilage
- Spicy herbal aroma

- Lactic acid (HPLC) 8100 mg/kg
- Acetic acid (HPLC) 1000 mg/kg
- Propionic acid (HPLC) 280 mg/kg
 - 1% organic acid solution
 - Mix one litre per tonne of TMR

Strategies

- Avoidance
 - Closed sheds
 - Single entrance
 - Limited access
 - Cover silage faces
 - Feed late afternoon
 - **Tom Tolputt** solutions
 - Organo Fresh Plus+ TMR®

Avoidance

- Expensive
- Difficult
- Impractical



