

Grass Growth is Low

- Grass growth rates are very low due to harsh weather.
- Cows will not go back in calf if they are suffering from mineral deficiencies.
- Cows need to be on a rising plane of nutrition as they head into the breeding season.
- There is a big risk of Grass Tetany due to cold nights and cows under stress.

When cows are stressed feed at least 3 ozs of Cal. Mag. per cow per day.

For high yielding herds, 4 ozs of Cal. Mag. per cow per day maybe required.

Concentrate feeding levels will have to increase to fill the intake gap until grass gets growing.

Milk Proteins will suffer if herds are underfed and cow body condition will reduce.

Many herds are too thin, with ribs clearly visible.

If total intake is reduced and cows are relying on grass, acidosis occurs.

If acidosis occurs milk butterfat levels decrease.

The start of the 2013 breeding season is not far away.

If feeding greater than 4.5kgs of concentrate stay feeding the Winter Range of feeds.

Give grass a chance to grow and build up covers

Restricting performance now will reduce the total lactation performance

GAIN Winter Range

- 2 ozs of Cal. Mag. in 4.5kgs.

For example, GAIN Drive Dairy 19% Nut has 2 ozs. Cal. Mag. in 4.5 kgs.

GAIN Pasture Range

- 2 ozs of Cal. Mag. in 2.5kgs.

For example, GAIN Premium Spring Breeder Nut has 2 ozs. Cal Mag. in 2.5 kgs.

- GAIN Pasture Micro Nut has 2ozs. of Cal. Mag. in 1.5kgs

Feeding Straights

- One bag of Sweetened Cal. Mag. per tonne will give 2ozs Cal. Mag. in 4kgs.

When reducing the feeding level of straights, don't forget to increase the mineral concentration.

Cutting concentrate back too quickly when grass is scarce will only put cows under more stress.

Significant kilograms of Milk Solids are lost when herds are underfed, thereby reducing profitability.