

OCRAS = HUNGER = LOW MILK PROTEIN

A lot of animals are suffering at the moment from ocras = hunger.

Fodder is tight, grass growth is low and the fodder gap is not being filled.

Cows have lost a lot of weight and thin cows will not milk, produce milk protein or go back in calf.

Milk proteins are under pressure and will remain low until cows are adequately fed.

Milk protein reflects energy intake, low energy intake reduces milk protein.

Milking cows need to start gaining weight

- The Spring breeding season is getting close.
- Cows need to be fit not thin at that stage.
- Cows need to be approaching a Body Condition Score of 3.
- Replacement heifers will be bred in April, they are the future and need to be cared for.
- Management / Stockmanship is the biggest factor effecting herd fertility and performance.

How do you put on body condition / weight?

- Feed more and eat more, the plane of nutrition needs to be increasing.
- Cows find it hard to gain weight even at the best of times and will require extra feeding.
- Minerals and Cal. Mag. are also important.

- If feeding greater than 4.5kgs of concentrate remain on the Winter Dairy concentrate.
- There needs to be plenty of grass available, before moving onto Pasture Feed and that will take time.

Look after the cow.

At least give her a chance to go back in calf.

Hunger achieves nothing.