

Managing Herd Fertility

Poor fertility leading to high replacement rates is a huge hidden cost. It can dwarf more visible costs such as concentrate costs.

Energy Supply and Body Condition Score

- High energy supply has a major positive influence on herd fertility.
- Underfed cows do not breed well.
- Cows need to be on a rising plane of nutrition during breeding.
- Over grazing restricts energy intake and fertility.
- Poor weather conditions restrict energy intake and fertility.
- Look at the cow.
- Leaving her short of feed is reducing the return on investment.
- Target infertility rate should be between 5-10%.

Milk Protein Levels act as an Early Warning System

- Milk protein drops when there is inadequate energy intake.
- Underfed cows have low milk protein percentage.
- Milk proteins are low when the plane of nutrition does not rise.
- Over grazing restricts energy intake and milk protein percentage.
- Poor weather conditions restricts energy intake and milk protein.
- Milk proteins drop from calving until peak milk yield has been achieved.
- Low milk proteins are magnified by compact calving.
- With milk protein, as good start is half the battle.

Excessive Protein in Grass and Minerals for Fertility

- Protein supply in rapidly growing grass is excessive.
- Excessive protein in grass does not help fertility due to high Nitrogen.
- Conception rate is reduced and infertility rate is increased.
- GAIN Premium Spring Breeder Nut includes Novatan.
- Novatan reduces the negative influence of excess protein in grass.
- Reduced Magnesium intake reduces milk yield and causes Grass Tetany.
- GAIN Premium Spring Breeder Nut includes Protected Minerals.

**Dairy herds must be fed and managed well during breeding
High infertility rates reduces profitability**