

### **Unsettled Conditions**

The weather is unsettled and grass growth is poor.

The energy shortfall is still there.

Thin cows will not milk, produce milk protein or go back in calf.

Milk proteins will remain low until cows are getting enough to eat.

### **Milking cows need to start gaining weight**

- The Spring breeding season is near.
- Cows need to be fit not thin.
- To gain weight cows need to eat to appetite.
- If grass is in short supply and concentrate is reduced herds will not gain weight.
- There is a high risk of Grass Tetany due to changeable weather conditions.
- GAIN Winter Dairy Feeds have 2 ozs. in 4.5 kgs.
- GAIN Pasture Dairy Feeds have 2 ozs. in 2.5 kgs.
- GAIN Pasture Micro Nut has 2 ozs. in 1.5 kgs plus Protected Minerals.
- Keep feeding minerals, cows run short of Iodine very quickly at grass.
- Low fibre intake will cause cows to scour and reduce butterfat percentage.
- Provide a source of long fibre if dungs loosen on leafy grasss.
- High digestible fibre based concentrates work best with grass.
- High digestible fibre based concentrates encourage intake and rumen health.
- Start the pre- breeding season heat detection and keep records.
- Vaccinate cows well in advance of the start of the breeding season.
- Cows not showing heat 40 days post calving need to be examined.
- Lamé cows need to be taken care of and cow roadway surfaces need to be improved.
- Management / Stockmanship is the biggest factor effecting herd fertility and performance.

### **Good body condition is critical for a good breeding season**

- Do not restrict energy intake.

Balanced concentrates are value for money while also supplying supplemental energy.

**Prepare now for a good breeding season!**