

Cold and unsettled weather has reduced grass growth.

Highly stocked farms are very short of grass.

#### Grass Growth Rates

Growth rate is 20 to 30 kgs of dry matter per hectare per day.

The growth rate is approximately half what it would normally be for April.

If stocked at 3.5 cows per hectare and allocating 20 kgs DM per cow.

The total demand is 70 kgs per day, while the growth is 25 kgs per day.

The farm cover and rotation length is reduced and the energy gap increases.

#### Showery

Recent heavy showers has made ground wet and easily damaged.

Use concentrate to fill the intake gap if grass is tight and buffer feed if required.

Leafy low cover grass can reduce Butterfat percentage, indicating acidosis.

Introduce some long roughage as a source of fibre to improve cudging.

This will help to dry up the dungs and get more performance from the grass.

#### Breeding

The breeding season has started, high dietary intake is critical.

Avoid major changes in grass quality and monitor milk protein levels.

Spend as much time as possible at heat detection, it pays well.

Keep feeding minerals, especially Copper, Selenium and Iodine.

Grass Tetany is prevalent.

## Prevention

Vaccinate all calves against Blackleg and avoid stressing them.

Keep on top of stomach worms and hoose , as both reduce immunity.

Check a few dung samples at the Vet. Lab.

Be proactive on lameness, do not drive cows hard when walking.

Identify high Somatic Cell Count cows and cull them off grass.

Keep calves thriving, calves suffer when fed low quality grass.

Feed 1 - 2 kgs of GAIN Calf Rearer Nuts after weaning.

Cattle within 4 to 6 weeks of slaughter should be fed concentrate.

Feeding will increase carcass gain, feed GAIN Beef Finisher Nuts.

Keep lambs thriving, lambs need high quality grass.

Identify the worm population and dose accordingly.

**Plan ahead for a profitable May**