Managing Cows in Late Lactation

Glanbia Late Lactation (September – November) Feeding Guidelines

Feed to extend rotation and improve grass use.

- Digestibility of grass drops, DM drops and sugar levels drop.
- Need to slow down your rotation and build a wedge of grass ahead of the cows.
- 1st paddocks to be closed should be the driest paddock and the first to be grazed the following spring.

Feed to supply minerals and Cal Mag to prevent Grass Tetany.

- Leafy grass in autumn is high in potash, therefore Mg is required to prevent Tetany.
- Autumn grass is low in Selenium, copper, zinc and iodine

Feed for milk price

- Higher solids in autumn milk
- Glanbia seasonality bonus

Feed to BCS 3.0 – 3.3 at drying-off and calving down.

Cows with BCS of 2.75 or less in October will need special attention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>October BCS</th>
<th>Concentrates Required At Grass</th>
<th>Length of Dry Period needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.75</td>
<td>4-5 kg</td>
<td>12-14 wks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2-3 kg</td>
<td>8 wks</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Milking cow gains condition more efficiently than dry cow.
Feed for Lactose

Lactose Levels

- 4.50% = minimum target at any time (ref UCD).
- 4.35% = Early warning!
- 4.20% = Milk Price bonus loss.

Cause of Low Lactose?

- Usually feed energy supply shortage.
- Typically low intake of wet, low-sugar, autumn grass.

Recommendation Feeding

- **Good autumn grass**
  - Feed 2-4kg/day concentrates (Energy/Cal Mag).
  - Response >1kg milk /1kg concentrates with good cows.
  - Feed a Pasture nut, high energy, low protein, high minerals, Cal Mag.

- **Scarce/wet autumn grass**
  - Introduce dry forage (grass silage/maize silage/hay).
  - Feed higher protein concentrate e.g. Winter 18%.

Drying Off

- Dry off cows producing less than 6.5kg/day;
- Dry off high SCC cows
- Lactation length should not exceed 310 days
- Dry off the herd when producing less than 2 gallons (9 litres) on average
- Ensure the milking machine is working effectively