

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

October BCS	Concentrates Required At Grass	Length of Dry Period needed
2.75	4-5 kg	12-14 wks
3	2-3 kg	8 wks

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