

Hungry Conditions

Cold and unsettled weather has reduced grass growth.
Highly stocked farms are running short of grass.

Grass Growth Rates

- Growth has reduced to 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.
- The cold weather has meant that 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.

Calves

- Keep calves thriving , calves suffer when fed low quality grass.
- Feed 1 - 2 kgs of GAIN Calf Rearer Nuts after weaning.

Beef Cattle

- Cattle within 4 to 6 weeks of slaughter should be fed concentrate.
- Feeding will increase carcass gain , feed GAIN Beef Finisher Nuts.

Sheep

- Keep lambs thriving , lambs need high quality grass.
- Identify the worm population and dose accordingly.

Plan ahead for a profitable May