**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 cudding.
- 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 hooze, 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