



## Grass Covers

### WHAT DOES A LOW GRASS COVER LOOK LIKE?

A low cover is when the amount of grass to be grazed is less than 8 centimetres (cm) high.

In kilograms of Dry Matter terms, 8cm is about 800kgs of Dry Matter per Hectare. (In thick grass swards, the 8cm height could be up to 1000kgs of DM per Hectare.) This grass is very leafy with low stem and very high crude protein, 25 to 30 %. It will be 80 to 85% Dry Matter Digestibility (DMD) and very low in fibre.

### WHAT DOES AN IDEAL GRASS COVER LOOK LIKE?

The ideal cover on the next paddock to be grazed should be around 12cm in height.

In Kilograms of Dry Matter terms, 12cm is about 1200kgs of Dry Matter per Hectare. (In thick grass swards, the 12cm height could be up to 1400kgs of DM per Hectare.) This grass is leafy with some stem and high crude protein, 20 to 25% it will be 75 to 80% DMD and medium in fibre.

### WHAT DOES A HIGH GRASS COVER LOOK LIKE ?

A high cover on the next paddock to be grazed would be around 16 cm in height. In Kilograms of Dry Matter terms, 16 cm is about 1600kgs of Dry Matter per Hectare. (In thick grass swards, the 16 cm height could be up to 2000kgs of DM per Hectare.) This grass is medium leaf with medium stem and medium crude protein, 15 to 20%. It will be 70 to 75% DMD and high in fibre.

**AVOID UNDERFEEDING HERDS DURING THE BREEDING SEASON.**