



## Timely Tips - Calves and Dairy

Grass is growing rapidly and getting out of control.

Grazing high stem / lower digestibility pastures reduces animal performance.

### Calves

- Keep calves thriving, keep high quality leafy grass with calves.
- Target a liveweight gain of at least 0.7 kg per calf per day.
- Do not force calves to graze pastures bare, as performance crashes.
- While both worm burden and disease risk increase.
- Keep on top of worms and hoose and watch for eye infections.
- Changeable weather exposes stressed calves to pneumonia.
- Provide shelter / shade and plenty of clean water during hot weather.
- If grass is very lush and dungs are loose, provide a source of long fibre.
- All ruminants need to back chew for optimum animal well being.
- If grass quality has reduced, feed a small amount of concentrate.
- Backward and late born calves require concentrate to support thrive.
- Calves should be fed GAIN Wean 'n' Build Nut.
- A compounded nut is cleaner to feed at grass rather than coarse feed.

### Dairy

- Surplus grass must be removed from the rotation.
- Feeding high cover, high fibre grass reduces cow performance.
- Forcing cows to eat this grass out only reduces output further.
- Milk proteins will drop and milk yield will also suffer.
- Spring calving cows should be heading towards peak milk yield.
- If grass is in surplus skip ahead to leafier, lower cover swards.
- Remove surplus grass immediately as baled silage.
- Get this paddock back in the rotation straight away.
- Do not restrict growth by cutting back on Nitrogen.
- Grow the grass and if in surplus harvest it for feeding later, if growth reduces.
- If cows are coughing when moved, suspect lungworms and treat accordingly.
- If cows are grazing ditches and rough grass, they are short of long fibre.
- Provide some straw or hay or baled silage as milk butterfats may drop.
- Spend time at heat detection and treat lame cows early.
- GAIN Pasture Micro Nut has 2 ozs. Cal. Mag. in 1.5kgs

**May is a critical cow breeding month, do not compromise fertility**