LATE CALVERS AND COWS WITH ISSUES

GOALS FOR LATE CALVERS AND COWS WITH ISSUES

1	2	3
Retain cows calving after 17th March and those that had issues at calving.	Opportunity of 2-3 serves in 2020 needed and a gain of 3- 4 weeks in calving date is possible.	Avoid them being replaced with a 1st calver. Loss of 100Kgs+ of Milk Solids & Cost of Replacement.

IDENTIFY THIS GROUP OF COWS:
1. Cows that calved after 17th March
2. Cows in BCS less than 2.75 at MSD or 3 weeks prior
3. Cows with difficult calvings, retained afterbirths
4. Cows with Milk Fever, LDA'S, E. Coli mastitis
5. Cows with Lameness

5 POINT PLAN

1. Nutrition & BCS – OAD and/or Extra feeding

Concentrate level (Kg) required to supply 100% of required energy at varying yields and at grass full time							
	Milk Yield Litres/day						
Grass Intake Kg/Day	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
12	1.9	2.8	3.8	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0
13	0.8	1.7	2.7	3.6	4.9	5.9	6.9
14		0.6	1.5	2.5	3.4	4.8	5.8
15			0.4	1.4	2.3	3.7	4.7
16				0.3	1.2	2.2	3.1
17					0.1	1.1	2.0
18							0.9

Cows do not reach their peak intakes of grass until they are calved 6 weeks. Therefore, late calving cows will be consuming between 10 and 12Kgs of grass DM in early lactation as opposed to 16-18Kgs for the February calving cows.

Late calvers need an extra 3-5Kgs of concentrate more per day than the early calving cows for the 1st 6 weeks of lactation. Putting these cows on once a day milking and feeding them twice a day will allow them to commence cycling earlier- Reducing the output and maximizing the input.

2. Vet exam, Scan, Metricheck & Metricure if required – Need to Gain Time

Vet exam these cows and repeat 3 weeks pre breeding and again at MSD mating start date. Once they have reached 28 days calved get these cows examined by your Vet. Metricheck them or scan them to ensure no endometritis present. If present insert a Meticure (zero milk withdrawal). A cow calved early February has had over 80 days and possibly 2-3 cycles to repair and cleanse her uterus - in late calvers we are continually working against the clock.

Cows that calved 10th April should receive a metricheck on 8th May and be treated with Metricure if required.

3. Synchronisation Programme for Fixed Timed AI

Synchronisation at 35 days calved and check to ensure any uterine infection is cleared prior to synchronisation. The programme for cows with fixed timed AI is superb as it ensures that these cows are cycling and bred in 10 days.

This will result in some calving the 1st week of March 2021, a month earlier than 2020.

DAIRY COWS – SYNCHRONISATION FOR COWS FIXED TIMED AI AT A PREDETERMINED TIME. NO HEAT DETECTION			
Monday 27th April	AM	Day 0	Insert PRID or CIDR and inject GnRH
Monday 4th May	AM	Day 7	Inject PG & Remove PRID/CIDR
Wed 6th May	PM	Day 9	Inject GnRH (56 hours post PG)
Thur 7th May	AM to noon	Day 10	AI all cows (16 - 20 hours post GnRH)

4. Fixed Timed AI & Watch for Repeats

The advantage of the 10 day synchronization programme is that cows are bred in 10 days and the repeats are due together which makes heat detection easier. Inseminate these cows with easy calving short gestation bulls. These bulls will gain you an extra 7-10 days next year.

5. Early Scan for Pregnancy & Resynchronise if empty

Scan these cows once 30 days have passed since insemination and the cow has not repeated. These late calvers are repeating at a time when activity is decreased, and it can be more difficult to detect them. If the cows scans empty resynchronise her and she will be bred again in 10 days.

Cows that calved 10th April should be synchronised on 15th May, AI'd on 25th May and scanned the 25th June to ensure she is in calf or identify if she is empty. This will give her an opportunity of 2 more cycles before breeding ends in July.

This 5 point plan costs approximately €50/cow – This is equivalent to 10 days milk.
It will increase the chances of keeping these cows in the herd, reduce the replacement rate and will result in a more mature herd milking in 2021, therefore maximising production.

Bandon Co-Operative
Agricultural & Dairy Society Limited