

# NUTRITION AND BODY CONDITION – KEY TO SUCCESS.

## NUTRITIONAL GOAL

1

Have cows calving at BCS of 3.0 to 3.25

2

Limit the loss of BCS from calving to breeding to a maximum of 0.5 of a BCS.

3

Have cows on a BCS of 2.75 or greater at breeding

4

Have cows fully fed approaching and during the breeding season

Achieving these nutritional goals will ensure submission rate and conception rate will be maximised during breeding leading to a high pregnancy rate.

## MATCHING ENERGY INTAKE TO OUTPUT

Table 1 below shows the concentrate required depending on grass intake (kgs of dry matter per day) and output (milk litres per day). The mistake most commonly made is an overestimation of the grass intake. If you overestimate grass intake, cows will not be fully fed and will lose BCS. The most vulnerable cows are the 1st calvers and the high yielders. Are you losing too many 1st calvers and mature cows each year?

**Concentrate level (Kg) required to supply 100% of required energy at varying yields and at grass full time**

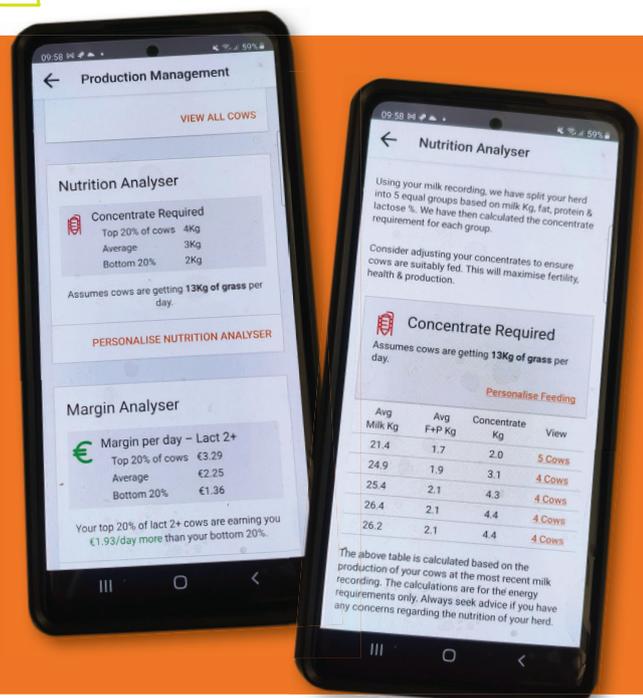
Grass Intake Kg/Day	Milk Yield Litres/day						
	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
12	1.9	2.8	3.8	5.0	6.0	7.0	8.0
13	0.8	1.7	2.7	3.6	4.9	5.9	6.9
14		0.6	1.5	2.5	3.4	4.8	5.8
15			0.4	1.4	2.3	3.7	4.7
16				0.3	1.2	2.2	3.1
17					0.1	1.1	2.0
18							0.9

**Monitor:** Carefully watch the volume of milk and % protein delivered as both are excellent indicators of energy. Ensure neither drops 3 weeks prebreeding and during the breeding season.

During inclement weather intakes will be reduced and cows need extra supplementation.

### NUTRITION ANALYSER IN FARMOPS

The nutrition analyser in FarmOps will divide your herd into 5 groups depending on their production and calculates the concentrates required for each group depending on grass and silage intakes. This is done after each milk recording making the information captured from the spring and early summer recording extremely valuable to ensure nutrition is optimised for breeding.



The above table is calculated based on the production of your cows at the most recent milk recording. The calculations are for the energy requirements only. Always seek advice if you have any concerns regarding the nutrition of your herd.