

Management 8 to 3 weeks pre calving



Summer

- Grazing + minerals
(100g/cow/day)



Winter

- Stemmy round bale
silage (low k) +
minerals
(100g/cow/day)

Management 3 weeks to calving



All animals are fed a partial DCAB diet with
additional magnesium chloride and pre calver
(NB: cows housed during summer period)

The partial DCAB approach can be used to minimise
the risk of milk fever. It involves selecting forages
which are low in specific minerals i.e. potassium.

Dry Cow Diets

Table 1: Dry cow diet 3 weeks to calving

Feed	kg FW/cow	DM (kg/cow)
Round bales	17	4.6
WCW	9	4.0
Straw	4	3.4
Pre-calver	2	1.7
Soya	0.75	0.67
Dry cow mineral	0.05	0.05
Magnesium chloride	0.2	0.2
Total	33	14.6

Table 2: Summary of forage & mineral analysis

	R bale	WCW	Pre-calver
DM (%)	27	44	87
CP (%)	12.5	8.7	25.1
ME(MJ/kg/DM)	10.8	9.5	12.3
Calcium (Ca)	0.39	0.15	
Magnesium (Mg)	0.15	0.11	
Sodium (Na)	0.12	0.01	
Potassium (K)	1.89	0.96	
Sulphur (S)	0.23	0.16	
Chloride (S)	0.38	0.19	
CAB meq/kg	294	96	

Table 3: Summary of diet

Dry matter intake (kg DM/cow)	14.6
Energy intake (MJ/cow)	138
Dietary protein (% DM)	12.6
DCAB (mEq/kg DM)	24

- All forages sent for mineral analysis
- Through feeding the above diet, cows are provided with a partial DCAB (Dietary Cation Anion Balance). The aim is for a partial DCAB of +50 (range 0-100).