



# Nutrition and Your Breeding Programs

## *What do your breeders look like at calving time?*

**The ability of a cow to ovulate following calving is directly linked to her body condition at the time of calving this is a major factor in determining rebreed rates and maintaining tight calving intervals.**

### **So how does this work?**

To grow a nice quality egg for ovulation, hormones need to be produced by the cows brain and other organs at certain levels and for set durations. These hormones also prepare the uterus for embryo implantation and growth

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Calving and lactation is a taxing process on the cow and it is always inevitable that she will loose some condition during this time while energy goes into maintaining the calf.

However, if body condition drops too low, this reduces the cows ability to produce the right amount of hormones at the right time to resume her cycle.

If a cow does manage to ovulate, the quality of the egg is often poorer, the fertilisation rates are lower, embryo implantation rates are lower and early embryonic death is higher due to the lack of suitable uterine environment created by the cow

When calf loss and early embryonic death is a major driving production factor in both our beef and dairy sectors, every % gain is critical

The longer it takes a cow to get back into adequate body condition, the longer it will take her to get in calf.

### **How do we manage this**

Cows should be calving in at least body condition score 3 if not 3.5/5. Cows will loose about 0.5-1 point on the body condition score scale after calving and can keep slipping backwards from there. Making sure this doesn't happen is crucial to the overall fertility of the herd.



So remember... cows who are joined in good condition, earlier in the season, generally calve in good condition earlier in the season and have more time to recover before their next joining. So plan ahead and aim for at least a 3.5/5 calving score!

**For best results it is important to speak to your cattle vet when planning an AI program!**

To find your nearest stockist or for more information contact us on [cattleplan@minitube.com.au](mailto:cattleplan@minitube.com.au) or phone 1300 553 193