



Grow your peace of mind this winter, and make spring better too.

You and your girls may be about to take a well-earned break from milking, but before you know it, new season's calves will be arriving thick and fast.

What better way to start spring than with the best possible range of pasture covers across the farm, and a sure-fire plan to get struggling paddocks growing well again?

It will make life easier for everyone when things get super busy in a couple of months' time. And you'll head into the new season feeling in control.

Full coverage

Successful calving starts with a range of pasture covers in front of you, so your feed wedge is indeed a nice wedge-shape, from short paddocks to long ones.

As you work your way through the winter grazing rotation with this in mind, keep a close eye on how individual paddocks are faring after a challenging season, because they'll hold you back if they're not up to par.

Summer grasses and weeds have infiltrated widely; wet weather has caused spring and summer pugging damage in several regions.

Performance review

Now's the time to identify which pastures have suffered

most, and work out how best to restore them to their full potential.

Earmark them early, and you'll have plenty of time to organise remedial work, whether it's undersowing, oversowing or setting them up for summer crop.

Grazing records will help identify the poor performers. You can compare cover data recorded through pasture software, if you use it, or simply count the number of grazings each paddock has had.

Baby new grass

New pastures need special care at this time of the year, too. The first nip-off is critical for a strong start, but the next one or two full grazings after that are also important.

Aim to achieve these before conditions get cold and wet. Then concentrate on making sure young grass gets through winter without being pugged.

Avoid grazing in wet weather; spread animals out at lower stocking rates to minimise damage and above all, treat them carefully.