

Webinar summary: Nutritional tools for reproduction – Part 1

This webinar focuses on the role of nutrition in improving reproductive performance in dairy cows, particularly in the pre-mating period. It explains how various nutritional tools can positively impact cow fertility, health, and performance, highlighting the importance of liver function, energy balance, and immune support.

In this webinar:

1. Six-week in-calf rate

- Data shows a steady improvement in six-week in-calf rates, linked to better nutrition and feeding practices.
- Proper nutrition, especially in terms of feeding energy-dense diets, supports higher milk production and better reproductive outcomes.

2. Liver function and hormonal processes

- The liver plays a key role in regulating growth hormones and insulin-like growth factors, which directly impact reproductive hormone production and follicle quality.
- Effective liver function ensures strong follicle growth and better chances of successful ovulation and pregnancy.

3. Importance of thyroid and immune system

- Thyroid hormones, supported by adequate iodine and selenium intake, are crucial for energy balance and preventing anovulation.
- A healthy immune system reduces glucose wastage, allowing more energy for milk production and reproduction.

4. Rumen stability and nutrition

- Balancing the diet with adequate fibre, protein, and carbohydrates helps maintain rumen health, which in turn supports liver function and nutrient absorption.
- Rumen stabilisers, such as calcium and yeast, improve diet consistency and cow performance.

5. Cow condition and energy balance

- Avoiding condition loss post-calving is critical for maintaining reproductive performance. Energy-dense feeds and specific supplements like chromium can help cows retain condition during the early stages of lactation.

6. Minimising stress

- Stress from hunger, competition, or environmental factors can negatively affect hormone production, appetite, and overall cow health. Consistent feeding practices and stable herd management reduce stress and support better reproductive outcomes.

For more detailed information, you can download the slide deck and watch the webinar recording.