

### Why Lush Grass Could Be Harming Your Cows (Hypomagnesaemia)



## Hypomagnesaemia in Cows (Also Known as Grass Staggers)

### Description

**Did you know?** Your cow doesn't store magnesium in her body! That means she depends entirely on daily feed to get enough of it. When the body loses more magnesium than it gets, she can fall into a dangerous state called **Hypomagnesaemia**, a condition especially common in lactating cows grazing on lush, fast-growing grass.

### Why It Happens:

- Young, rapidly growing grasses (especially **ryegrass**) are **low in magnesium**.
- High levels of **potassium fertilizer** in pastures can block magnesium absorption.
- **Lactating cows** lose more magnesium through milk production, increasing their risk.
- During **spring**, when pasture is lush but low in minerals, cases often rise.

### Signs to Watch For:

- Restlessness or nervousness
- Staggering or uncoordinated movements
- Twitching, convulsions, or sudden collapse
- Aggressive or overly excitable behavior
- In severe cases, cows may **die suddenly** with no warning.

### Treatment & Prevention:

- Give **magnesium supplements** (e.g., magnesium oxide or magnesium sulfate).
- Offer **mineral licks or blocks** high in magnesium.
- Avoid over-applying **potassium-rich fertilizers** on grazing fields.
- Provide **slower-growing forages** like clovers and legumes which have more magnesium.

- **Act fast** if symptoms appear â?? early treatment can save lives!
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### Date Created

2025/07/12

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