



## Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

**Background:** The main aim of the **Systems Research Herd** at UCD Lyons Farm is to evaluate the feasibility (including profitability) of a higher input/output grazing system within a limited land holding scenario. The focus is on maximising milk solids output from the existing land holding which involves high output from individual cows and high stocking rates on the MP. This will occur most efficiently through maximising the use of grazed grass/home grown forage in the system and the strategic use of supplementation thereafter. Such a system might facilitate the successful expansion of the farm business without the need to buy or rent extra land, to buy stock, to acquire extra labour or to provide extra cow facilities. For the study purpose, stocking rate and concentrate inputs are fixed. For more details on the Systems Research Herd visit <http://www.ucd.ie/agfood/welcomemessage/systemsresearchherd/>.

### Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 31-10-2017

#### Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65  
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4  
Farm Cover: 553 kg DM/ha (163 kg DM/cow)  
Growth Rate: 19.7 kg DM/ha/day  
Demand: 27.2 kg DM/ha/day  
Supplement: Concentrate 3.7 kg/cow/day  
Average DIM: 252 (range 190-283)



**Grass Supply:** AFC on 31<sup>st</sup> of October was 553kg DM/ha (range 24 to 1110 kg DM/ha). Cows continue to graze out well while ground conditions remain OK, considering the high rainfall we had last week.

Buffer feeding of one bale/day (~4kg DM/cow) of silage will continue until Wednesday (Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>). From Wednesday on-wards cows will be housed by night and allocated 6 kg DM silage each.

Current silage quality is as follows: 33%DM, 78 DMD, 13.7% Protein, 0.89 UFL.

We began closing paddocks on the MP on the 8<sup>th</sup> October with a target to have 70% of the MP closed by 1<sup>st</sup> November. To date (31-10) we have grazed 71% of the block, which means we will be slightly ahead of the November 1<sup>st</sup> target.

**Feed Budget:** Cows are being fed an average of 3.73 kg of concentrate. 33 cows are on 4kgs, 19 on 2.5kgs and 8 cows have moved to 6kgs as they reached 270 DIM. Grass DMI last week was 9.2 kg at 13% DM on average. Silage DMI last week was 4kg at 33% DM.

**Milk Production:** Average production is currently 15.3 kg/cow at 4.83% fat and 4.07% protein (1.36 kg MS). SCC is 60,500. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 11<sup>th</sup> October.

#### Herd EBI September 2017:

EBI	Milk	Fert	Calv	Beef	Maint	Health	Mgt
124	40.36	47.58	37.74	-8.89	5.19	0.77	1.25