 Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

Project Objectives

- To develop a profitable high-output grass-based spring milk production system
- To incorporate the most recent advances in grassland management for dairy farms into a high- output system
- Use a type of dairy cow that has good genetic indices for both milk production and fertility
- Employ the best practices from nutrition research and dairy cow husbandry
- Incorporate nutritional studies into a high-output system
- To incorporate management technologies and system attributes that enhance the sustainability of dairy production

For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit
https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 25/03/2024

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.43	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.27	LU/ha
Farm Cover	473	Kg DM/ha
Growth Rate	20	Kg DM/ha/day
Demand	43	Kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc	8	kg/day
Average DIM	33	days
Area Grazed	93	%

Cow Details

YIELD	31.8	kg/cow/day
Fat	5.13	%
Protein	3.3	%
MS	2.68	kg
SCC	123	Cells/ml milk
Cows calved	57/57	

Grazing plan:

As of the 25th March, we have 93% of the milking platform grazed. The last paddock to graze is our wettest paddock on the farm so grazing it with the current weather is challenging. With the forecast for the week being more rain, cows will be housed from Wednesday evening until ground conditions improve. The reduction on grass demand will also be an aid. Lower growth rates than typical for the time of year has seen the AFC fall to below 500 kg DM/ha. We did manage to get the first round of fertiliser out which will hopefully help with growth rates in the coming weeks.

Comments:

Calving started on the 31st of January. All cows (57)are now calved. 54 cows calved within the first 6 weeks, with all cows calving within 8 weeks. There has been good heat activity in the herd as we look towards the breeding season. A pre-breed scan of the herd is scheduled for the 3rd of April allowing time to address any issues in time for the start of the breeding season.