



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 03-07-17

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.65
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.4
Farm Cover: 605 kg DM/ha (178 kg DM/cow)
Growth Rate: 48 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 61.2 kg DM/ha/day
Supplement: Concentrate 4.1 kg/cow/day
Average DIM: 132 (range 70-164)



Grass Supply:

AFC on 3rd July was 605 kg DM/ha (range 100 to 1360 kg DM/ha). Growth rate has dipped this week at 48 kg DM/ha. It was cold and wet at the end of last week resulting in the growth rate being significantly lower than our 5 year average of 66 kg for the same week. We are continuing to graze our 6th rotation on the MP, aiming to go into covers of 1300-1400 Kg DM/ha.

The Abergain/Abermagic grass seeds are continuing to tiller, and a post emergent spray will be applied this week.

Feed Budget

45 cows are now being fed 3.5 kg of concentrate with the remainder (15) on 6 kg. Grass allowance remains at 18 kg DM per day giving us an overall demand of 61.2 kg DM/ha/day. Grass DM last week was 16% on average.

Fertiliser:

185kg/ha (151 units/acre) of Nitrogen has been spread on the MP to date, with a further 25 kg N to go out this week.

Milk Production:

Average production is currently 28.7 kg/cow for the week 26th June to 2nd July, at 4.20% fat and 3.52% protein (2.2 kg MS). SCC is 84,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 21st June.

BCS:

The average BCS on 27th June was 3.0, with a range of 2.5 to 3.5. 92% of the herd was in the range 2.75 to 3.25.

Breeding Season 2017:

Breeding started on April 24th and will continue for 12 weeks, until the 16th July. We will continue using AI for the full 12 weeks. At the end of the 10th week of breeding, 98% of eligible cows have been served. Submission rate in the first three weeks was 92%, with 50% of these cows now scanned in calf.