**Project Objectives**

* To develop a sustainable 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

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| **Farm Details Week 11th– 17th Sept 2023** |
| **Stocking rate on MP (LU/ha)** | **3.16** |
| **Farm Cover (kg of DM/ha)** | **644** |
| **Growth Rate (kg of DM/ha/day)** | **40** |
| **Demand (kg of DM/ha/day)** | **38** |
| **Average grass DM (%)** | **14.6** |
| **Average Concentrate fed (kg/day)** | **3** |
| **Average DIM** | **210** |

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| **Cow Details Week 11th – 17th Sept 2023** |
| **Yield (kg/cow/day)** | **22.6** |
| **Fat (%)** | **4.91** |
| **Protein (%)** | **3.92** |
| **MS (kg/day)** | **2.00** |
| **SCC** | **68,545** |

**Grassland Management:**

As farm cover is low, 3kg DM/cow/day of silage has been added to the diet since the 12th of September to reduce demand for grass and extend the grazing season. Target farm cover for mid-September is approximately 1100-1200kg DM/Ha. The proportion of silage in the diet will increase this week to reduce grass demand, which will aid in building covers.

**Comments**:

Ground conditions have held up well, however heavy rain fall over the weekend means silage is now being offered at the feed barrier in the shed pre-milking instead of under the fence lines.