



## 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 20-11-2017

#### Farm Details:

Closing Cover: 476 kg DM/ha  
Supplement: Concentrate 5 kg/cow/day  
Cows Milking: 60  
Average DIM: 273 (range 211-304)



Image © Ciaran Hearn

**Grass Supply:** The MP is closed this week with an average cover of 476 kg DM/ha. We will be aiming to begin grazing in the Spring with an average cover of approximately 800 kg DM/ha, which we are on target for if growth over recent winter periods is repeated this year.

**Feed Budget:** Cows are being fed an average of 5 kg of concentrate. 35 cows are on 6kgs as they reach 270 DIM, 20 cows are on 4kgs and 5 cows continue on 2.5kgs as they have yet to reach 240 DIM.

All cows are being allocated 13 kg DM/day of silage. Current silage quality is as follows: 33%DM, 78 DMD, 13.7% Protein, 0.89 UFL.

**Dry Off:** Drying off of cows will begin later this week or early next week. Cows will be dried off in batches with an aim to give cows an average dry period of 60 days. Cows which drop below 9 kg milk/day will also be dried off regardless of 2018 calving date.

Selective dry cow therapy will be used where only cows with a problematic high SCC will be treated.

Once dry, cows will be offered a silage only diet of 9 kg DM. The silage being offered to dry cows will be as follows: 31%DM, 67 DMD, 13.2% Protein, 0.74 UFL.

**Milk Production:** Average production is currently 14.17 kg/cow at 4.67% fat and 3.95% protein (1.22 kg MS). SCC is 114,600. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 8<sup>th</sup> of November.

#### 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