



Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes

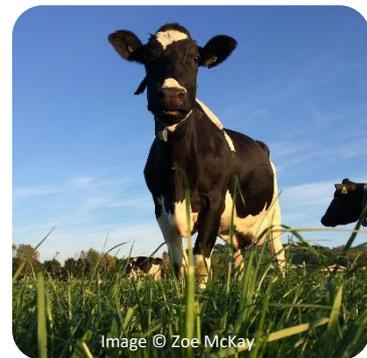
Background: It is widely recognised that grass-based systems offer a competitive advantage and will predominate in Ireland. However, grazing systems that have been developed to utilise large quantities of grazed grass have in the main been based on low-output per cow. In this scenario, high levels of profitability are possible through avid cost control and comparatively high stocking rates for grazing systems. There are now reasons to consider the development of grazing systems that are based on high-output per cow. These reasons include (i) concerns about increasing dairy cow numbers and environmental emissions, (ii) facilitating farm expansion post EU-milk quota removal for land limited and fragmented farms, (iii) lack of available skilled labour on farms to deal with expanding animal numbers. The rationale for this research is that a high output grass-based spring milk production system can be profitable when built on a foundation of good grassland management and meeting both milk and fertility targets and has a place in a sustainable Irish dairy industry.

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 25/02/2019

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.59 ha
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 2.44
Farm Cover: 1410 kg DM/ha
Growth Rate: 21 kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 26 kg DM/ha/day
Average Concentrate Supplement: 8 kg/head/day
Average DIM: 15 days
Cows Calved: 43 (out of 60)



Current Daily Feed Budget: Cows are being fed 8 kg of an 18% crude protein concentrate in the parlour (this is built up gradually over two weeks post-calving) and being allocated 16 kg DM of grass. Grass DM was 19% on average last week.

Spring Grazing Plan: Cows were turned out by day on the 4th of February with an AFC of 1410 kg DM/ha and turned out full-time by the 11th of February with an AFC of 1428 kg DM/ha. Currently the AFC is 1410 kg DM/ha (range 0 to 2305 kg DM/ha). Average daily growth rate was 21 kg DM/ha this week. Currently there is 25% of the farm grazed, expecting to have 30% grazed by Wednesday the 27th of February. The current pre-grazing yield is 1296 kg DM and cows are grazing out paddocks very well to date. Average soil temperature (at 100 mm) last week was 8.9°C.

Calving: Calving started on the 29th of January and there is currently 43 (of 60) or 72% of the cows calved.

Milk Production: Average production is currently 33.0 kg/cow at 5.05% fat and 3.90% protein (2.95 kg MS). SCC is 147,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 13th of February. Average weekly production for this week last year was 26.6 kg/cow at 4.75% fat and 3.38% protein (2.52 kg MS).