



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 28/10/2019

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.53 ha
Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.25 LU/ha
Farm Cover: 458 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU: 141 kg/LU
Growth Rate: 18kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 16 kg DM/ha/day
Average Concentrate Supplement: 3 kg/hd/day
Average DIM: 251 days
Milking cows: 57



Current Daily Feed Budget: Cows are being allocated 8 kg DM of grass, 10 kg DM silage and an average of 3 kg of a high energy concentrate. From Friday of this week the cows will be allocated 5 kg DM of grass and 12 kg DM of silage. Since the 7th October all cows are being fed an 18% crude protein concentrate. Estimated grass intakes last week were 7.3 kg DM/hd/day.

Grassland: The current AFC is 458 kg DM/ha (range 0 to 918 kg DM/ha). Average daily growth rate was 18 kg DM/ha this week and grass DM was 14.7 % on average. We began our last rotation on the 7th October. As of Friday, 25th October we had 63% of the farm (11.09 ha) grazed.

Milk Production: Average production is currently 15.6 kg/cow at 4.5% fat and 3.87% protein (1.31 kg MS). SCC is 104,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 16th of October. Milk production from this time last year was 15.8 kg/cow at 4.82% fat and 4.07% protein (1.40 kg MS).

Drying off: On Tuesday the 29th of October, we dried off 1 cow that was producing on average 6.8 kg of milk last week. She received an antibiotic tube and teat seal.