



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.

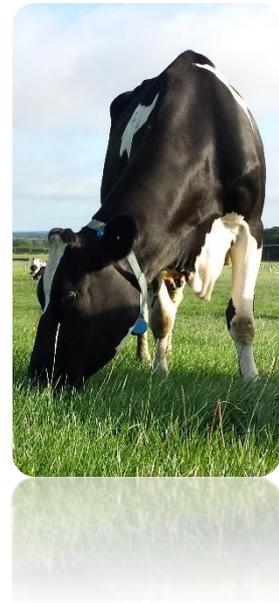
For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit <https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/>

Lyons Systems Research Herd Notes Week 07/10/2019

Farm Details:

Area available: 17.53 ha Current Stocking Rate (MP): 3.31 LU/ha
Farm Cover: 855 kg DM/ha
Cover/LU: 258 kg/LU
Growth Rate: 31 (28) kg DM/ha/day
Demand: 50 kg DM/ha/day
Average Concentrate Supplement: 3 kg/hd/day
Average DIM: 224 days
Milking cows: 58

Current Daily Feed Budget: Cows are being allocated 15 kg DM of grass and an average of 3 kg of a high energy concentrate. Since the 7th October all cows are being fed an 18% crude protein concentrate. Estimated grass intakes last week were 12.05 kg DM/hd/day.



Grassland: The current AFC is 855 kg DM/ha (range 195 to 1894 kg DM/ha). Average daily growth rate was 31 kg DM/ha this week and grass DM was 14.15% on average. We began our last rotation on the 7th October. Our target is to graze 65% by the 1st of November, with the remaining 35% grazed by mid-November. In order to achieve this, we will be grazing an average of 0.47 ha per day.

Milk Production: Average production is currently 17.4 kg/cow at 5.25% fat and 3.99% protein (1.61 kg MS). SCC is 69,000. Fat, protein and SCC figures are based on milk recording results from the 1st of October. Milk production from this time last year was 18.7 kg/cow at 4.70% fat and 3.88% protein (1.60 kg MS).

Locomotion Scoring: On Monday the 7th of October the herd were assessed for locomotion (scale of 1 to 5 with 1= normal, 2= mildly lame, 3= moderately lame, 4= lame, and 5= severely lame). Of the 58 cows scored, 30 cows scored 1 (57%), 22 cows scored 2 (40%), 5 cows scored 3 (8.6%) and 1 cow scored 4 (1.7%). The cows that scored either a 3 or 4 will be checked by a hoof trimmer this week, along with an additional 16 cows which have been identified as requiring a routine trim.