



# Lyons Dairy Systems Research Herd Notes 2025

## Project Objectives

- To develop a profitable 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



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 01/09/2025

### Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.11	LU/ha
Farm Cover	779	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	250	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	37	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	31	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	5	kg/day
Average DIM	195	days
Grass DM	16	%

### Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	22.10
Fat %	4.37
Protein %	3.74
MS (kg/cow)	1.87
SCC cells/ml	61

### Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 779 kg on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, with growth rates of 37 kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. The average pre-grazing cover between the 27<sup>th</sup> August and 3<sup>rd</sup> of September was 1519 kg DM/ha.

Last weeks' diet consists of a grass allocation of 7 kg DM, silage allocation of 10 kg DM and 5 kg of concentrates. This week's diet will see a drop in silage allocation and an increase in grass allocation as farm cover has improved with recent increased rainfall.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 18.25 mm of rain fell on the platform. According to Met Éireann the accumulated rainfall in the surrounding area of Lyons farm was between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of August was 24.2 mm. Soil Moisture Deficit for the surrounding area of Lyons farm is 37 mm according to Met Éireann on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August.



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### **Comment:**

54 cows were BCS on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. 2% scored  $\leq 2.25$ , 15% scored  $\leq 2.5$ , 28% scored 2.75, 42% scored 3.0, 8% scored 3.25 and 5% scored 3.5.