



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 17/11/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.11	LU/ha
Farm Cover	773	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	249	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	13	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	19	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4	kg/day
Average DIM	272	days
Grass DM	13	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	16.4
Fat %	5.53
Protein %	4.01
MS (kg/cow)	1.56
SCC cells/ml	49

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 773 kg on the 17th of November, with growth rates of 13 kg DM/ha. The average pre-grazing cover between the 7th and 13th of November was 1300 kg DM/ha. As of the 17th of November, 86% of the grazing platform has been closed for the season.

The current diet consists of grass allocation of 6 kg DM, silage allocation of 10 kg DM and 4 kg of concentrates. Storm Claudia brought heavy rainfall to Lyons farm. This resulted in cows receiving a greater silage intake while being housed during the heavy rainfall period. Cows were housed for 5 days last week and received a silage allocation of 16 kg DM during the fully housed period.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 10th and 17th of November, 82 mm of rain fell on the platform.



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Comment:

54 cows were BCS on the 19th of November. 6% scored 2.5, 11% scored 2.75, 31% scored 3.0, 39% scored 3.25, 11% scored 3.5 and 2% scored 3.75. We will continue to monitor BCS as lactation progresses and decide if any actions are needed for those cows falling outside of the desired range