



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 25/08/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.11	LU/ha
Farm Cover	673	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	216	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	22	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	22	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	5	kg/day
Average DIM	188	days
Grass DM	20	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	23.6
Fat %	4.4
Protein %	3.8
MS (kg/cow)	1.94
SCC cells/ml	51.5

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 673 kg on the 26th of August, with growth rates of 22 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 19th and 26th of August was 1594 kg DM/ha.

Last weeks' diet up till the 22nd of August consisted of a grass allocation of 17 kg DM and 4 kg of concentrates. Greenfeed machines measuring methane allocate concentrates to cows. Three kgs of concentrates are offered through the milking parlour and the remaining 1 kg are fed through the Greenfeed machines measuring methane from the cows on an ongoing basis.

This weeks' diet as from Friday the 22nd of August consists of a grass allocation of 7 kg DM, silage allocation of 10kg DM and 5 kg of concentrates. Greenfeed machines have been withdrawn as the research trial into investigating the effects of reducing crude protein content in concentrates finished on Friday the 22nd of August.



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Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 19th and 26th of August 6 mm of rain fell on the platform. Soil Moisture Deficit for the surrounding area of Lyons farm is 52 mm according to Met Éireann on the 24th of August.

Comment:

The final pregnancy scan was conducted on the 28th of August. 51/54 cows scanned were confirmed pregnant. Hence, the in-calf rate is 94%.