



# 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 7/07/2025

### Farm Details:

Area Available	15.42	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.57	LU/ha
Farm Cover	725	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	203	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	36	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	61	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4.75	kg/day
Average DIM	139	days
Grass DM	20	%

### Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	26.4
Fat %	4.01
Protein %	3.63
MS (kg/cow)	2.02
SCC cells/ml	59

### Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 725kg on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July, with growth rates of 35kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. 2 paddocks that were reseeded have been brought back into the grazing rotation this week. 2 paddocks have been taken out for silage (1.93ha). The (1.01ha) paddock cut for silage last week yielded 8 bales. The average pre-grazing cover between the 30<sup>th</sup> of June and 7<sup>th</sup> of July was 1336kg DM/ha.

The diet consists of a grass allocation of 17kg DM, 4kg of concentrates from parlour and on average 0.75 kg/hd/day of concentrates from greenfeed machines.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 1<sup>st</sup> of July and 8<sup>th</sup> of July 10mm of rain fell on the platform.



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### **Comment:**

Breeding finished on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> of July. Currently 36/53 cows submitted for breeding are confirmed in calf to first service (this is preliminary data based on early-stage scanning). All of these were bred up to 24 days, resulting in a conception rate to first service of 68% for those 24 days.

Out of the 36 cows currently scanned in calf, 13 of which are in calf to sexed FR. At present the first service conception rate to sexed FR is 75% (this is preliminary data based on early-stage scanning).