**Project Objectives**

* ****To develop a sustainable 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

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| **Farm Details Week 03/04/23** |
| **Stocking rate on MP (LU/ha)** | **3.15** |
| **Farm Cover (DM/ha)** | **804** |
| **Growth Rate (DM/ha/day)** | **31** |
| **Grass demand (DM/ha/day)** | **42** |
| **Average Concentrate fed (kg/day)** | **8** |
| **Average DIM** | **43** |
| **Area Grazed (%)** | **82** |

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| **Cow Details Week 27/03/23** |
| **Yield (kg/cow/day)** | **33.20** |
| **Fat (%)** | **4.22** |
| **Protein (%)** | **3.29** |
| **MS (kg/day)** | **2.58** |
| **SCC** | **68** |
| **Cows calved**  | **56/57** |

**Grassland Management:**

As of the 3rd of April, 82% of the milking platform has been grazed. Due to adverse weather conditions, cows were grazing for 5 days (27-31/03) and allocated 12 kg DM/cows/day and offered silage ad lib for 2 days over the weekend. Cows are getting 8 kg of concentrate per day. Cows are back at pasture (03/04/23) full time with the aim to finish the first rotation by the 9th of April depending on ground conditions.

**Comments**:

Calving started on the 26th of January and 98% of cows (56/57) have calved to date. As of the 30th of March, 54/57 cows were BCS which reported that 89% (48) of the cows were within the normal range of 2.75-3.25 with 4 cows thin and 1 heifer at 3.5. The 4 thin cows are being milked once a day while still being offered concentrate twice a day to build condition ahead of the breeding season.

For more details on the High Output Systems Research Herd visit

https://www.ucd.ie/agfood/about/lyonsresearchfarm/lyonsdairyherd/