**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

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Farm Details Week 9th– 15th Oct 2023** | |
| **Stocking rate on MP (LU/ha)** | **3.16** |
| **Farm Cover (kg of DM/ha)** | **625** |
| **Growth Rate (kg of DM/ha/day)** | **21** |
| **Demand (kg of DM/ha/day)** | **19** |
| **Average grass DM (%)** | **15.9** |
| **Average Concentrate fed (kg/day)** | **4** |
| **Average DIM** | **238** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Cow Details Week 9th-15th Oct 2023** | |
| **Yield (kg/cow/day)** | **19.3** |
| **Fat (%)** | **5.04** |
| **Protein (%)** | **3.7** |
| **MS (kg/day)** | **1.68** |
| **SCC** | **50,722** |

**Grassland Management:**

There is currently 23% (4.07 ha) of the platform closed for the season. Graze-out residuals of 70-90 kg DM/ha are being achieved as pre-grazing covers are averaging approx. 1040 kg DM/ha. Cows are being offered 10 kg DM of 68.9% DMD first cut pit silage with a crude protein content of 24.9%, 6 kg DM grass and 4 kg of concentrate in the parlour.

**Comments**:

From the same period last year, milk production was 17.45 kg/cow at 4.65 % fat, 4.02 % protein (1.51 kg MS) and SCC was 51,000. BCS was carried out on the 14th Oct, with 55 cows scored. Of those cows scored 93% were within target BCS (2.75-3.25). This is an ideal position to be in at this time of year with no over conditioned cows within the systems herd.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BCS** | **Number of Cows** |
| 2.5 | 4 |
| 2.75 | 18 |
| 3 | 25 |
| 3.25 | 8 |