



# 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 04/08/2025

### Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.17	LU/ha
Farm Cover	810	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	256	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	68	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	54	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	3.75	kg/day
Average DIM	166	days
Grass DM	17	%

### Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	26.2
Fat %	4.41
Protein %	3.72
MS (kg/cow)	2.15
SCC cells/ml	56

### Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 810 kg on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, with growth rates of 68 kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. The 3<sup>rd</sup> cut for pit silage was taken on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

Last weeks' diet consisted of a grass allocation of 17 kg DM and 3.75 kg of concentrates. Three kgs of concentrates are offered through the milking parlour and the remaining 0.75kg are fed through the Greenfeed machines measuring methane from the cows on an ongoing basis.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 28<sup>th</sup> of July and 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 14.5 mm of rain fell on the platform.



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### Comments:

56 cows were BCS on the 31st of July. 5% scored  $\leq 2.5$ , 30% scored 2.75, 32% scored 3.0, 21% scored 3.25 and 7% scored 3.5.