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 11/08/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.17	LU/ha
Farm Cover	808	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	255	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	49	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	54	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4	kg/day
Average DIM	174	days
Grass DM	21	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	24.90
Fat %	4.35
Protein %	3.64
MS (kg/cow)	1.99
SCC cells/ml	58

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 805 kg on the 11th of August, with growth rates of 54 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 4th and 11th of July was 1591 kg DM/ha.

This weeks' diet consists 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.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 4th and 11th of August 0 mm of rain fell on the platform.

Comment:

The 3rd intake run of the new research trial into investigating the effects of reducing crude protein content in concentrates started on the 12th of August.