



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 13/10/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.11	LU/ha
Farm Cover	862	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	277	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	30	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	37	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4	kg/day
Average DIM	238	days
Grass DM	17	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	19.64
Fat %	5.18
Protein %	4.28
MS (kg/cow)	1.86
SCC cells/ml	88

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 862 kg on the 13th of October, with growth rates of 30 kg of DM/ha. The average pre-grazing cover between the 7th and 14th of October was 1676 kg DM/ha. As of the 16th of October (32.7%) of the grazing platform is closed for the season and we will reach the target of (39%) on the 20th of October.

The current diet consists of grass allocation of 12 kg DM, silage allocation of 4 kg DM and 4 kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 7th and 14th of October 1 mm of rain fell on the platform.



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Comment:

54 cows were BCS on the 8th of October. 4% scored ≤ 2.25 , 4% scored 2.5, 24% scored 2.75, 40% scored 3.0, 24% scored 3.25 and 4% scored 3.5. We will continue to monitor BCS as lactation progresses and decide if any actions are needed for those cows falling outside of the desired range.