



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 15/09/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.11	LU/ha
Farm Cover	1003	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	323	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	54	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	44	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	5	kg/day
Average DIM	210	days
Grass DM	17	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	22.06
Fat %	4.95
Protein %	3.94
MS (kg/cow)	1.96
SCC cells/ml	73

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 1003 kg on the 15th of September, 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 10th and 16th of September was 1525 kg DM/ha.

Last weeks' diet consisted of a grass allocation of 10 kg DM, silage allocation of 7 kg DM and 5 kg of concentrates. As from the 16th of September the diet consists of a grass allocation of 14 kg DM, silage allocation of 4 kg DM and 5 kg of concentrates.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 10th and 16th of September 17.5 mm of rain fell on the platform.

Soil Moisture Deficit for the surrounding area of Lyons farm is 23 mm according to Met Éireann on the 14th of September.