



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 20/10/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	3.11	LU/ha
Farm Cover	847	kg DM/ha
Cover/LU	272	kg DM/day
Growth Rate	32	kg DM/ha/day
Demand	37	kg DM/ha/day
Average Conc.	4	kg/day
Average DIM	244	days
Grass DM	15	%

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	19.65
Fat %	4.9
Protein %	4.01
MS (kg/cow)	1.75
SCC cells/ml	85

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 847 kg on the 20th of October, with growth rates of 32 kg of DM/ha. The average pre-grazing cover between the 15th and 21st of October was 1606 kg DM/ha. As from the 19th of October (38%) of the grazing platform has been closed for the season.

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 15th and 21st of October 15 mm of rain fell on the platform.



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Comment:

54 cows were BCS on the 22nd of October. 10% scored 2.5, 20% scored 2.75, 35% scored 3.0, 26% scored 3.25, 7% scored 3.5 and 2% scored 3.75. 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.