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 21/07/2025

Farm Details:

Area Available	17.35	Ha
Current SR (MP)	**3.17**	**LU/ha**
Farm Cover	**634**	**kg DM/ha**
Cover/LU	**200**	**kg DM/day**
Growth Rate	**52**	**kg DM/ha/day**
Demand	**29**	**kg DM/ha/day**
Average Conc.	**4.75**	**kg/day**
Average DIM	**153**	**days**
Grass DM	**17**	**%**

Cow Details:

Parameter	
Yield (kg/cow/day)	**26.14**
Fat %	**4.00**
Protein %	**3.57**
MS (kg/cow)	**1.98**
SCC cells/ml	**49**

Grazing plan:

The AFC was recorded at 634 kg on the 22nd of July, with growth rates of 52 kg of DM/ha. To manage the grass supply and quality effectively, grass walks are being conducted twice weekly. The two paddocks taken out for silage (1.93ha) last week yielded 22 bales. The average pre-grazing cover between the 16th and 21st of July was 1736 kg DM/ha.

Last weeks' diet consisted of a grass allocation of 17 kg DM, 4 kg of concentrates from parlour and on average 0.75 kg/hd/day of concentrates from greenfeed machines. Silage has been added to the diet as of the 22nd of July, because growth has been less than demand since the 9th of July. Hence, this weeks' diet consists of a grass allocation of 9 kg DM, 4.75 kg of concentrates and silage allocation of 8 kg DM.

Weather and ground conditions are being closely monitored. Between the 16th and 21st of July 55.5 mm of rain fell on the platform.